Poultry and Egg Situation

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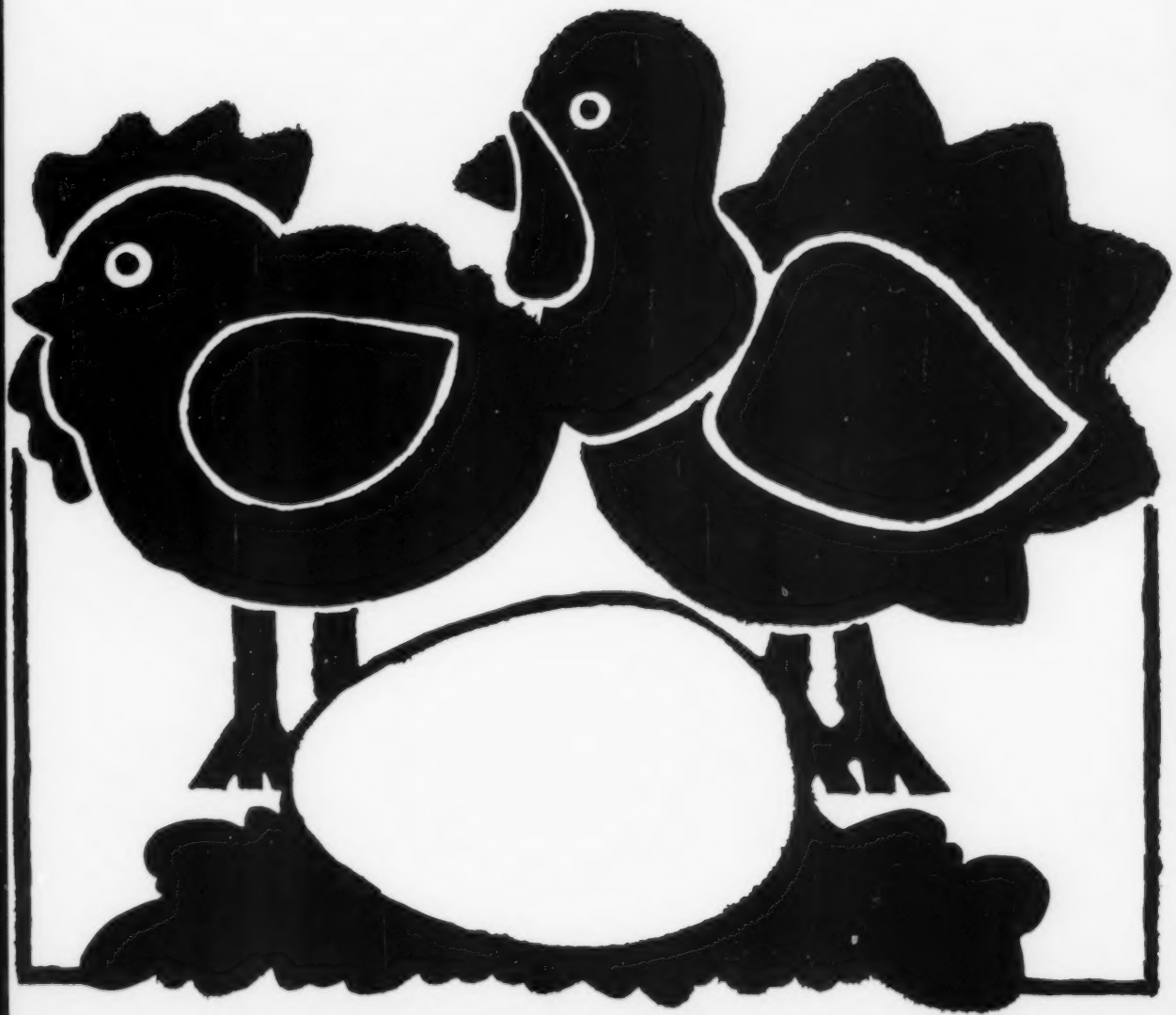

Table 1—Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	1976				1977			
		Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
		Eggs							
Farm production	Mil. doz.	451.2	438.3	454.5	443.3	447.7	443.8	466.0	
Average number of layers on farms	Mil.	272	275	277	279	271	277	281	
Rate of lay per layer	No.	19.9	19.2	19.7	19.0	19.8	19.2	19.9	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	60.0	61.4	60.3	65.5	51.5	52.6	47.3	
14 Metro areas price									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	72.2	73.5	71.4	76.7	62.7	62.5	56.3	
Retail price (BLS)									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	85.7	89.0	87.6	87.3	82.0	81.7	76.1	
Price paid for laying feed	Dol. per ton	157	159	154	151	143	138	135	
Egg-feed price ratio	Pounds	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.7	7.2	7.6	7.0	
Stocks, first of month:									
Shell	Thous. cases	34	45	50	32	38	47	49	51
Frozen	Mil. lb.	31.6	31.0	28.7	28.9	35.1	34.8	33.8	33.2
Replacement chicks hatched	Mil.	38.3	37.7	37.0	36.3	37.8	37.1	37.0	
		Poultry							
Federally inspected slaughter, cert.									
Broilers	Mil. lb.	805.2	800.3	769.5	699.2	870.4	808.2		
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	243.8	252.8	256.6	261.5	244.4	238.2		
Price at farm, live weight									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	23.8	22.8	20.6	19.4	23.9	24.0	23.1	
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	31.1	30.7	30.7	31.1	33.7	34.3	36.5	
9-city wholesale broiler price	Ct. per lb.	41.6	39.7	36.4	34.9	42.0	40.9	39.2	
Retail price (BLS)									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	60.7	59.4	56.7	54.4	62.1	61.5	60.4	
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	74.4	72.9	72.8	71.9	73.5	74.0	75.7	
Broiler-feed price	Dol. per ton	177	179	170	169	164	154	153	
Broiler-feed price ratio	Pounds	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.9	3.1	3.0	
Turkey-feed price	Dol. per lb.	181	181	176	177	176	172	168	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Pounds	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.3	
Stocks, first of month:									
Broilers, fryers, roasters	Mil. lb.	25.6	27.4	24.3	24.3	33.1	30.5	31.7	33.2
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	261.9	370.3	459.7	512.3	251.6	327.6	408.4	446.3
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	408.2	521.5	611.0	664.5	408.2	481.1	566.4	602.8
Average weekly placement of broiler chicks in 21 States	Mil.	63.8	60.4	58.4	59.5	63.8	62.1	63.2	

Recent Poultry and Egg Publications

The Chicken Broiler Industry Structures, Practices, and Costs, USDA, ERS, AER-381, August 1977.

Selected Topics Related to the Poultry and Egg Industries, Collection of special articles from various issues of the Poultry and Egg Situation. U.S.D.A., ERS-664, December 1977.

Single copies may be obtained from the Poultry Program Area, Commodity Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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The next issue of the *Poultry and Egg Situation* will be published in early March.

SUMMARY

Prospects for the poultry and egg industries point to larger production and lower market prices in 1978. But if feed costs average below a year earlier in the first half as now expected, broiler and turkey producers will show favorable returns. Egg producers, however, will likely be in a cost-price squeeze by next year.

Production costs currently are below a year ago and likely will remain lower at least through the first half of 1978 because of 1977's large grain and soybean crops. Lower costs of feed ingredients are expected to offset the continued uptrend in other costs of production and marketing.

Continued growth in the general economy and gains in consumers' real disposable incomes will help bolster the demand for poultry and eggs in 1978. However, poultry products will continue to face strong competition from large supplies of red meats. Grass-fed beef supplies are likely to be below 1977's levels, but fed beef and pork production may increase sharply and push total red meat supplies above 1977's levels.

Egg output has picked up from the weather-reduced levels of last summer and was almost 3 percent above a year earlier in October. Production is expected to continue to show this margin of increase during the remainder of 1977 and average 2 to 3 percent above a year earlier during the first half of 1978. Layer numbers next January 1 will likely be 2 to 3 percent above January 1, 1977. However, this margin of increase probably will not be maintained through the first half of 1978 because of prospects for unfavorable profit margins during part of the period. The rate of lay will likely surpass a year earlier because of a younger laying flock.

Egg prices have been weak since last winter and increased production has prevented the usual seasonal price increases this fall. Cartoned egg prices in New York during October-December will average around 20 cents below the high levels of last fall. If egg output in the first half of 1978 is 2 to 3 percent above 1977, as now seems probable, egg prices will continue well below a year earlier.

Egg producers will likely be in a severe cost-price squeeze during the second half of 1978 if they

continue to expand production. Feed prices will depend on prospects for the 1978 crops, but they are not expected to average below July-December 1977. A 2-percent increase in egg output could result in prices for cartoned large eggs in New York being 5 to 7 cents a dozen below July-December 1977 and below the cost of production. However, if total egg production in the second half of 1978 is cut back to year-earlier levels, prices would be expected to average slightly higher than this year.

Broiler meat output for all of 1977 will be up around 3 percent, with the largest increases occurring late in the year. Output likely will continue to expand in 1978 spurred by prospects of feed prices averaging lower than a year earlier. Broiler production is expected to be 5 to 7 percent above a year earlier during the first half of 1978.

Despite the large supplies of red meats and broilers in 1977, strong demand has kept broiler prices above a year earlier during most of this year. Wholesale broiler prices were fairly strong during October but prices are expected to drop to the mid-30-cent-level in November and December because of a sharp increase in marketings coupled with big supplies of competing meats.

While demand is expected to remain strong, increased broiler production and larger pork supplies in 1978 are expected to hold broiler prices above the lows of this fall but below 1977's levels. A 5- to 7-percent increase in broiler production next winter and spring could result in broiler prices 4 to 6 cents a pound below the 42-cents-a-pound level for January-June 1977.

Turkey output for all of 1977 will be down about 2 percent. However, producers are expected to respond to strong turkey prices this fall and expected lower feed prices by increasing poult production for marketing during the seasonally light period of January-June 1978—perhaps by nearly a tenth. But the increase will be largely offset by reduced cold storage stocks on January 1.

Turkey prices have exceeded year-earlier levels and the gap has widened in recent months as supplies dropped well below last year. Mid-November's prices for young hen turkeys at New York were 60 cents a pound, 12 cents above a year earlier. Turkey prices will remain strong for the rest of 1977. Prices during the first half of 1978 will decline from this fall's levels and may average in the low to middle 50-cents-a-pound range. Turkeys will be competing with larger fed beef and pork supplies and increased production of broilers.

Poultry, Livestock, and Egg Production and changes from a year earlier

	1976				1977				1978[1]	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV[1]	I	II
Broilers[2] (Mil. lbs.)	2,116	2,314	2,372	2,186	2,156	2,399	2,424	2,265	2,285	2,540
Percent change	+15	+12	+14	+10	+2	+4	+2	+4	+6	+6
Turkeys[2] (Mil. lbs.)	207	369	710	664	210	365	672	665	220	400
Percent change	+24	+28	+14	+5	+1	-1	-5	0	+5	+10
Beef[3] (Mil. lbs.)	6,492	6,145	6,618	6,412	6,285	6,162	6,320	6,150	6,150	6,075
Percent change	+11	+10	+11	+2	-3	0	-4	-4	-2	-4
Pork[3] (Mil. lbs.)	2,958	2,847	3,014	3,669	3,293	3,186	3,074	3,500	3,600	3,550
Percent change	-6	-5	+18	+27	+11	+12	+2	-5	+9	+11
Total[4] (Mil. lbs.)	12,074	11,935	13,011	13,247	12,237	12,384	12,780	12,863	12,500	12,765
Percent change	+7	+6	+13	+9	+11	+4	-2	-3	+2	+3
Eggs (Mil. doz.)	1,358	1,344	1,342	1,360	1,330	1,338	1,334	1,400	1,360	1,365
Percent change	+1	+1	0	0	-2	0	-1	+3	+2	+2

Poultry, Livestock, and Egg Prices

	1976				1977				1978[1]	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV[1]	I	II
Broilers, 9-city[5] (Cents/lb.)	42.2	41.7	41.5	35.5	40.9	42.3	42.4	36-38	37-39	36-38
Turkeys, New York[6] (Cents/lb.)	49.3	48.2	48.5	49.0	50.2	51.5	53.1	57-59	51-53	50-52
Choice Steers, Omaha ($/cwt.)	38.7	41.4	37.3	39.0	37.9	40.8	40.5	40-42	39-41	40-42
Barrows and Gilts 7-markets ($/cwt.)	48.0	49.2	43.9	34.2	39.1	40.9	43.8	37-39	34-36	33-35
Eggs, New York[7] (Cents/dozen)	68.0	63.1	71.8	78.4	74.9	57.8	61.5	57-59	54-56	48-50

[1] Forecast. [2] Federally inspected slaughter. [3] Commercial production. [4] Includes veal and lamb and mutton. [5] Wholesale weighted average. [6] 8-16 lb. young hens. [7] Cartoned, consumer Grade A large, sales to volume buyers.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

FACTORS AFFECTING THE POULTRY AND EGG INDUSTRIES

The demand for eggs and turkeys will decline seasonally in early 1978 but demand for broilers will strengthen as people shift back to broilers after the Thanksgiving and Christmas turkey feasts. Prices are expected to lag a year earlier because of increased production of eggs, broilers, and turkeys, and larger supplies of competing meats. However, production costs in the first half of 1978 likely will be below 1977 because of lower feed costs.

General Economy Growth Slows

The growth in the U.S. economy slowed during the third quarter. Gross National Product (GNP), after adjustment for inflation, increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.7 percent during July-September. This compares with a 6.2 percent increase in real output in the second quarter and 7.5 percent in the first. Real per capita disposable income increased at an annual rate of 3 percent in the third quarter, down from 6 percent in the second quarter.

The general economy is expected to receive a boost from a recovery in consumer spending this fall from weak summer spending. Retail sales were up in early October and expectations are for a strong Christmas as well as strong auto sales during the balance of 1977. The economy likely will continue to expand in the first half of 1978 but may not match 1977's first half growth rate. Continued gains in consumers' real disposable incomes in 1978 are likely and will help bolster the demand for poultry and eggs.

Large Crops Lower Production Costs

Production costs of eggs, broilers, and turkeys, after rising sharply last spring, have declined and are currently running below a year earlier. Production costs during October dropped substantially below a year earlier because of lower feed ingredient prices. Production costs probably will remain below a year ago in coming months but much depends on developments in the domestic and international grain and soybean markets. Large U.S. grain and soybean crops are being harvested in 1977 but crops in some other areas of the world are below earlier expectation.

On November 1 the 1977 corn crop was estimated at a record 6.4 billion bushels. This, combined with an 879-million-bushel carryover of old corn, would make a total supply for the 1977/78 year beginning in October of almost 7,250 million bushels, 10 percent more than in 1976/77 and a little above the record supply in 1972/73. Because of the large supplies relative to expected usage, prices of corn likely will range around the loan levels.

U.S. supplies of oilseed meals will also be larger than in 1976/77. The soybean crop on November 1 was estimated at 1.7 billion bushels, 33 percent above the 1976 crop. Although carryover soybean stocks were down from a year ago, total supplies for 1977/78 may be 18 percent above the previous year. Barring higher than expected exports of soybeans and soybean products, there will be substantially larger soybean meal supplies available for domestic feeding at prices averaging well below a year earlier.

With the recent outlook for increased foreign demand for U.S. grain and soybeans, feed ingredient markets have strengthened considerably since mid-October. As farmer participation in the government price support program gains momentum, further strength in corn and soybean markets appears likely during the course of the marketing year. However, record large supplies of both corn and soybeans should have some tempering effect on the rise in feed ingredient prices through the first half of 1978.

Less Beef, More Pork for 1978

Poultry producers in 1978 will again face strong competition from large supplies of red meats. The mix will be different as beef production declines and pork production increases. This is expected to result in somewhat higher cattle prices but lower hog prices.

Total beef production is expected to decline, although fed cattle marketings during 1978 may be 4 to 6 percent above 1977 with the largest gains occurring during the last half of the year. However, a substantial and more than offsetting reduction is expected in the slaughter of steers and heifers directly off grass next year. The year-to-year reductions may not be very large through the winter but they could be substantial during the rest of the year, especially if range conditions are favorable. Cow slaughter likely will also be down substan-

tially from 1977. However, beef supplies will remain large. This, coupled with large supplies of other meats, will limit price rises in fed cattle prices during much of 1978.

Hog producers' farrowing intentions suggest that pork production during the first half of 1978 may exceed a year earlier by around a tenth. Indications are that second half pork production will also show year-to-year increases, perhaps by a larger margin than in the first half.

If pork production increases as expected, barrow and gilt prices would trend downward in 1978. Prices could drop to around $30 per hundredweight at 7 markets during the fourth quarter, well below October 1977's $40 average. Hog prices at this level would put severe downward pressure on broiler prices in 1978.

EGGS

Egg production is running above year-earlier levels in late 1977 and is expected to continue 2 to 3 percent higher in the first half of 1978. Pressured by larger egg supplies, egg prices in late 1977 are well below 1976 levels. Egg prices in 1978 are expected to average moderately below 1977.

Output Bounces Back

Egg production in September-October totaled 910 million dozen, 2 percent above a year earlier. Production trailed 1976 levels in June-August but jumped back above a year earlier in recent months because of a sharp gain in layer numbers and larger output per hen. Layer numbers were slightly below a year earlier in August but in September-October averaged 3.5 million birds above last year. Output per hen was slightly above a year earlier in September but was up 1 percent in October.

The size of the laying flock will continue above 1976 levels in coming months. The hatch of egg-type chicks 5 to 6 months earlier indicates that there will be around 4 percent more replacement pullets than a year earlier during the remainder of 1977. The rate of lay will likely continue above a year earlier because of a much younger flock. Thus, egg production this fall will total around 3 percent above October-December 1976. Egg production for all of 1977 will total near the 5,404 million dozen of 1976, as larger output in late 1977 offsets the reduced production earlier in the year.

Layers on farms and eggs produced

Calendar quarters	Number of layers		Eggs per layer		Eggs produced	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*
I	279	277	58.3	57.6	1,357.9	1,329.8
II	272	269	59.4	59.6	1,343.9	1,337.9
III	272	272	59.2	58.9	1,342.3	1,333.5
IV	279		58.5		1,359.9	
Annual	276		235.4		5,404.0	

1978 Output To Rise

Egg production in the first half of 1978 will be up 2 to 3 percent from January-June 1977, but the margin of increase is expected to narrow in the second half. Layer numbers going into 1978 likely will be 2 to 3 percent above a year earlier, but they may not continue to show this margin of increase through the first half.

The hatch of egg-type chicks in recent months for replacement pullets in early 1978 has dropped below a year earlier. Chicks hatched during July-October were down 2 percent and eggs in incubators on November 1 were down 5 percent (table 2). Weak egg prices this fall will likely lead to a continued decline in the hatch of egg-type chicks in coming months. The severe cold weather last winter resulted in increased mortality of replacement pullets. A return to more normal mortality levels in 1978 could actually result in as many replacement pullets as a year earlier in early 1978. However, replacement pullets next spring will likely be below a year earlier. Although the cullings of old layers were unusually heavy in January-June 1977, prospects of a severe cost-price squeeze may force the cull in the first half of 1978 to be even larger.

Layer numbers in the second half of 1978 will depend largely on producers' profitability during the winter and spring. The expected 2- to 3-percent increase in output during the first half could put

Table 2—Egg-type chick hatchery operations

Month	Hatch			Eggs in incubators first of month change from year earlier	
	1975	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*
January	34,818	35,844	40,249	3	12
February	36,552	39,637	41,306	5	12
March	45,372	50,055	50,991	9	1
April	47,409	51,482	54,838	1	8
May	47,989	48,233	52,454	-1	11
June	40,854	42,351	44,433	3	4
July	38,099	38,609	37,373	1	-1
August	34,934	38,257	37,785	4	0
September	33,851	37,721	37,094	10	-5
October	34,801	37,039	37,029	9	-6
November	28,446	36,305		21	-5
December	30,679	36,647		15	

producers in a severe cost-price squeeze by early next year. Producers could respond by stepping up the cullings of old layers and by hatching fewer chicks for second half 1978 replacement pullets. This could significantly reduce egg production by next fall.

Pullet chicks placed for laying flocks, 1968-72 average and 1973-77*

Month	1968-72 average	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	Million					
January	22.5	21.7	20.0	19.6	20.3	22.7
February	23.8	22.9	21.3	20.4	22.4	23.1
March	31.0	29.1	26.0	25.4	27.9	28.4
April	34.5	30.0	30.1	26.2	28.8	30.7
May	32.9	30.6	28.8	26.9	27.3	29.3
June	26.8	24.9	24.2	22.9	23.8	24.9
July	23.1	23.1	20.6	21.5	22.1	21.5
August	20.9	23.8	19.8	20.1	22.0	21.5
September	21.5	24.1	18.2	19.6	21.4	21.2
October	22.2	25.9	19.9	19.8	21.2	21.5
November	20.0	22.5	18.7	16.5	20.6	
December	20.1	20.0	18.4	17.7	20.9	
Total	299.3	298.6	266.0	256.7	278.8	

*One-half of egg-type chick hatched plus pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders.

Egg Prices Weak

Egg prices have been running lower year-earlier levels since last spring and are expected to continue below through most of 1978. The price of cartoned large eggs delivered to volume buyers at New York averaged 64 cents a dozen in January-October, 4 cents below the same months in 1976 (table-3). First quarter prices were up 7 cents a dozen, but second and third quarter prices were down 6 and 10 cents, respectively. Prices were very weak in early October, dropping to 52 cents a dozen. They rose to 62 cents in early November, but unexpectedly dropped to 54 cents in mid-November, 21 cents below the relatively high levels of a year earlier. Some seasonal strength is expected during the remainder of 1977, but large egg prices at New York for October-December will average around 20 cents a dozen below the 78 cents of a year ago.

Larger than year-earlier egg supplies will put pressure on egg prices in 1978. Prices are expected to average in the mid-to-high 50-cents-a-dozen range in the first quarter before dropping to around 50 cents next spring. This would compare with 75 and 58 cents a dozen, respectively, in the first and second quarters of 1977.

Foreign Trade Up

Both U.S. imports and exports of shell eggs and egg products are up sharply this year. Imports of shell eggs and egg products in January-September totaled almost 15 million dozen, up sharply from the very low 2 million dozen last year (table 4). The sharp increase has come from increased imports of shell eggs from Canada, Mexico, and Israel. Although imports were up sharply, they accounted for less than one-half of 1 percent of total egg supplies.

Exports of eggs and egg products have also gained sharply and are over three times as large as imports. Through September, 46 million dozen (shell equivalent) were exported, compared with 27 million dozen last year. Shell egg exports rose 56 percent to 32.8 million dozen. Exports of egg products through September totaled 11.3 million pounds, compared with 3.8 million pounds a year earlier.

Shipments to U.S. territories totaled 20.2 million dozen (shell equivalent) of eggs and egg products, down from the 22.4 million dozen a year earlier. Shell egg shipments were down 23 percent to 15.6 million dozen, while egg products gained 75 percent to 4 million pounds.

Table 3—Egg prices, 1976-77

Month & year	E.M.E.C. quotes on market values[1]		Received by producers United States[2]	Cartoned Grade A large New York[3]
	East	Midwest		
	Cents			
1976				
January	61.8	60.2	61.2	73.9
February	54.1	51.9	58.5	67.2
March	52.1	51.8	53.5	63.0
April	46.6	46.2	52.7	62.1
May	51.4	49.8	54.7	63.5
June	52.3	52.1	53.3	63.6
July	56.8	56.5	55.1	68.2
August	60.4	60.8	60.0	73.3
September	60.4	60.7	61.4	74.0
October	59.9	60.4	60.3	72.4
November	68.5	68.2	65.5	78.8
December	72.3	71.5	69.5	83.9
1977				
January	68.8	68.1	65.1	81.0
February	63.2	62.8	66.2	76.2
March	56.6	56.2	58.8	67.4
April	48.7	47.6	55.3	61.4
May	45.3	45.1	49.1	55.0
June	48.0	48.0	46.8	57.0
July	52.7	52.0	50.7	62.4
August	50.7	50.4	51.5	61.4
September	48.0	46.5	52.6	60.8
October	46.2	45.2	47.3	56.0
November				
December				

[1] Average of weekly price quotations for nest run eggs by the Egg Market Evaluation Committee. Does not necessarily represent prices at which eggs are traded in the market. [2] Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. [3] Sales to volume buyers, store door delivery, consumer Grade A large.

Table 4— Egg supplies available to civilians for food, January-March, April-June, and July-September, 1976-77

Item	Unit	January—March			April-June			July-September		
		1976	1977	Change from year earlier	1976	1977	Change from year earlier	1976	1977	Change from year earlier
Beginning stocks	Mil. doz.	28.2	20.7	-7.5	23.1	20.0	-3.1	23.6	25.2	1.6
Farm production	Mil. doz.	1,357.9	1,329.8	-28.1	1,343.9	1,337.6	-6.3	1,342.3	1,333.5	-8.8
Imports	Mil. doz.	.1	1.2	1.1	.3	6.2	5.9	1.7	7.2	5.5
Exports and shipments	Mil. doz.	15.2	16.1	.9	15.9	23.2	7.3	18.0	26.9	8.9
Military procurements	Mil. doz.	13.1	7.6	-5.5	10.8	10.9	.1	9.3	10.0	.7
Eggs used for hatching	Mil. doz.	104.6	108.4	3.8	108.1	112.0	3.9	96.4	99.3	2.9
Supplies available to civilians for food: Total	Mil. doz.	1,253.3	1,219.6	-33.7	1,232.5	1,217.7	-14.8	1,243.9	1,229.7	-14.2
Per capita	No.	70.8	68.4	-2.4	69.5	68.1	-1.4	70.0	68.7	-1.3
Civilian population	Mil.	212.5	214.1	1.6	212.8	214.5	1.7	213.2	214.9	1.7

Hatching and Breaking Use Up

The use of eggs for hatching purposes is estimated to have totaled 320 million dozen in January-September, 3 percent above a year earlier. Eggs used for hatching accounted for around 8 percent of total production, compared with 7.5 percent last year.

Commercial egg breakers have stepped up their activity sharply this year (table 5). During January-September, 522 million dozen eggs were broken under Federal inspection, 19 percent above a year earlier. Weekly reports indicate breakings continued above last year in October but dropped slightly below in early November.

With the increased breakings, cold storage holdings of frozen egg products have moved above a year earlier. Frozen egg products in cold storage on November 1 totaled 33 million pounds, up 15 percent from a year ago but still a third below 2 years earlier (table 12).

Second Half 1978 Prospects

Egg production in the first half of 1978 is expected to be 2 to 3 percent above a year earlier. If producers continue this rate of expansion in the second half, market egg prices would likely be below the cost of producing eggs.

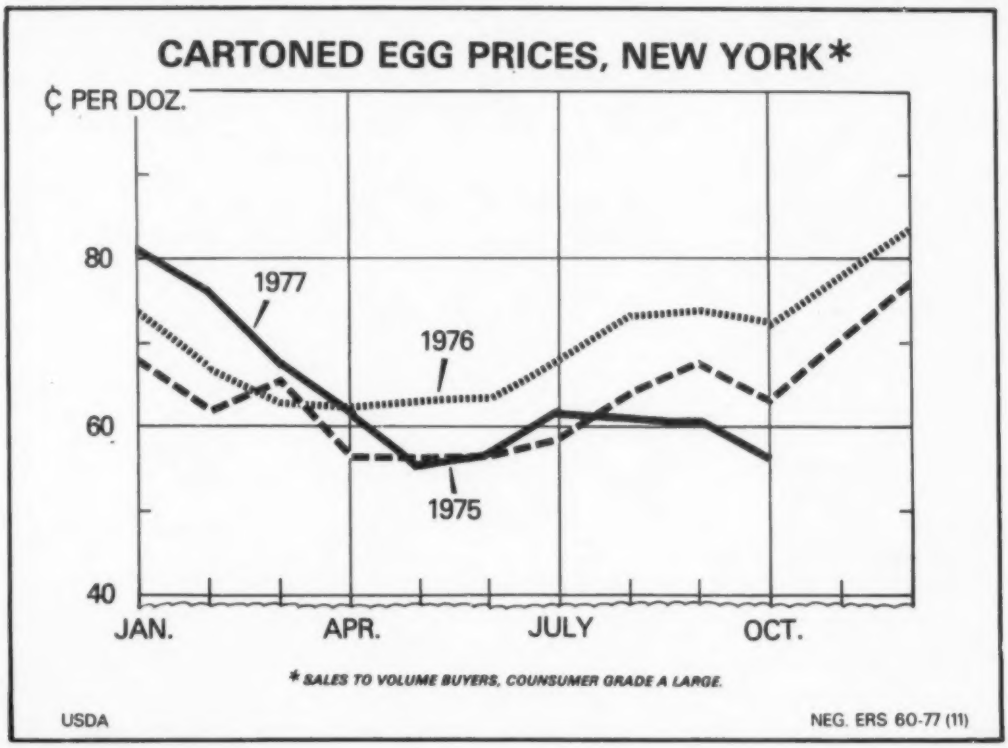
Feed prices in the second half of 1978 will depend not only on this year's crops, but also next year's. If large corn and soybean crops develop next year and domestic and foreign demand hold around levels now in prospect, feed prices during the second half of 1978 could average close to July-December 1977's average.

Hatching egg use in the second half of 1978 is expected to show a small increase from a year earlier because of a continued expansion in broiler production. Breaking use however may show little,

Table 5— Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under federal inspection, 1976-77

Period[1]	Shell eggs broken	Egg products produced[2]		
		Liquid[3]	Frozen	Dried
	Thou. doz.	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*
1976				
Jan. 4-Jan. 31	36,069	21,263	20,190	3,115
Feb. 1-Feb. 28	37,569	23,729	20,670	3,079
Feb. 29-Mar. 27	44,727	26,076	24,695	4,726
Mar. 28-Apr. 24	46,143	26,107	26,550	4,443
Apr. 25-May 22	45,863	28,198	23,688	4,974
May 23-June 30	68,698	41,699	36,648	6,967
July 1-July 17	28,425	16,315	15,971	3,472
July 18-Aug. 14	48,264	29,420	23,802	6,064
Aug. 15-Sept. 11	45,044	27,117	22,331	4,840
Sept. 12-Sept. 30	36,847	24,106	16,381	3,986
Oct. 1-Oct. 23	42,290	26,283	21,049	4,841
Oct. 24-Nov. 20	48,982	29,278	26,585	5,447
Nov. 21-Dec. 18	42,792	25,120	23,021	4,432
1977				
Dec. 19-Jan. 15	41,440	23,638	22,606	4,225
Jan. 16-Feb. 12	41,678	25,598	21,842	4,588
Feb. 13-Mar. 12	47,126	29,246	23,375	5,725
Mar. 13-Apr. 9	48,514	29,798	24,759	5,263
Apr. 10-May 7	56,549	33,807	29,849	6,518
May 8-June 4	60,437	35,012	31,644	7,001
June 5-July 2	63,793	35,114	34,044	7,688
July 3-July 30	58,114	31,106	30,533	6,349
July 31-Aug. 27	55,842	31,932	26,739	5,979
Aug. 28-Sept. 30	67,236	38,286	32,030	6,693

[1] Weeks in 1976 and 1977. [2] Includes ingredients added. [3] Liquid egg product produced for immediate consumption and for processing.



if any, increase. Commercial breakers have sharply expanded their takings in 1977 and stocks of egg products have begun to build up. With the prospective higher shell egg production and lower prices in the first half of 1978, stocks of egg products by mid-1978 may be well above a year earlier.

Considering the weakness in egg prices during much of 1977 and the expected expansion in egg production during the first half of 1978, producers will likely find themselves in a cost-price squeeze next spring. This will likely lead to increased culling of old layers and a reduced hatch of pullets for flock replacements in the second half of 1978.

If total egg production in the second half of 1978 equals a year earlier and there is a small increase in hatching use, prices for cartoned Grade A large eggs delivered to New York would show a small increase from July-December 1977 (table 6). However, if output is up 2 percent, egg prices would be expected to average 5 to 7 cents below this year.

Egg Consumptin Continues To Slide

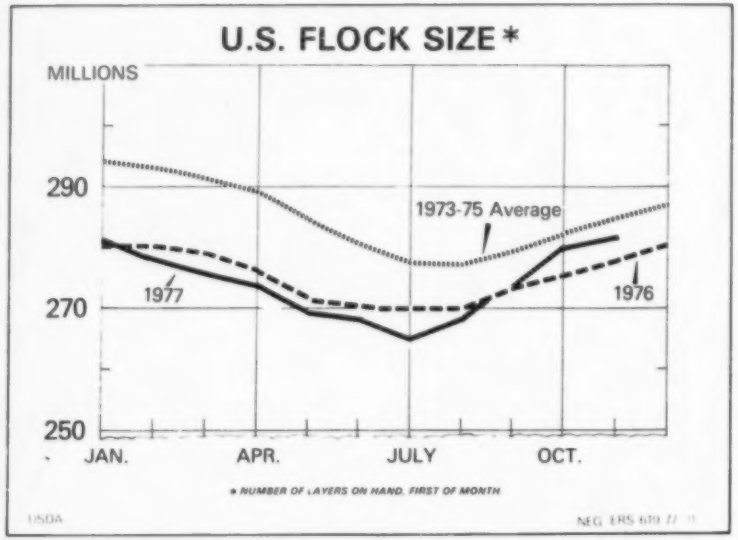
Consumption of eggs continued to decline in 1977. For the year, egg use will decline 3 to 5 eggs from 1976's 276 eggs per person. All of this year's decline will be in shell egg use. Processed egg use in 1977 probably will be up 3 to 4 eggs from last year's 33 eggs per person.

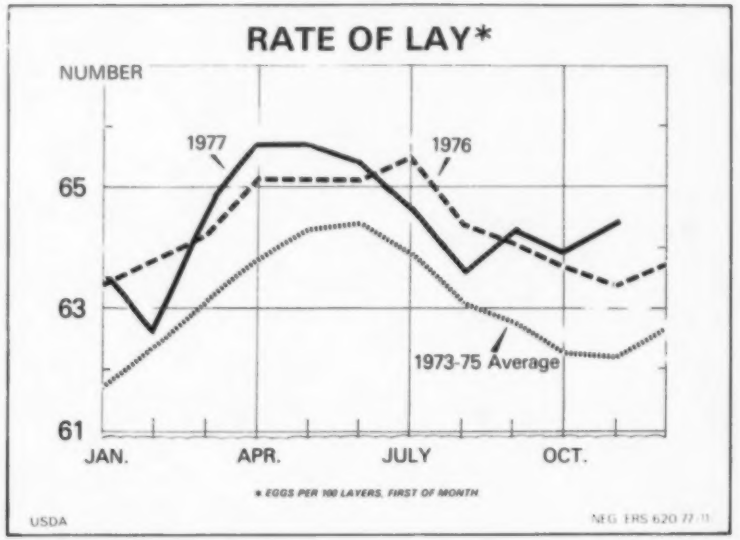
Table 6—Estimated 2nd half 1978 egg price/production relationships[1]

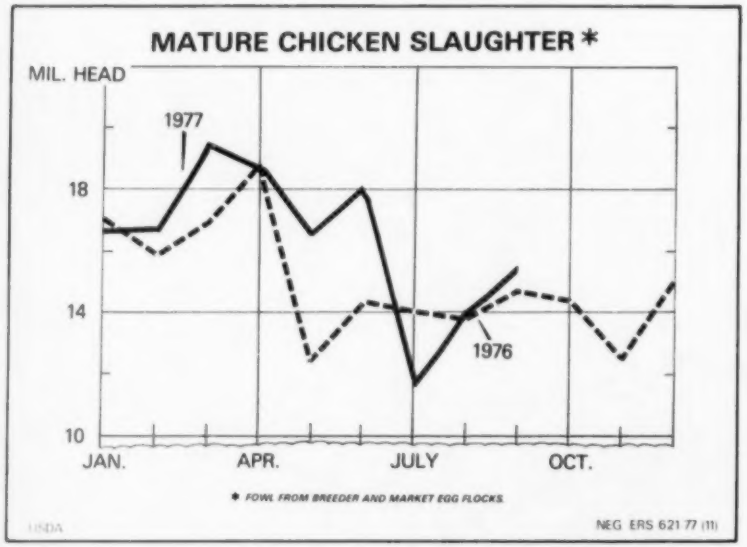
Total egg production		Estimated New York cartoned large egg price[2]
Million dozens	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per dozen
2,816	+3	50-53
2,790	+2	53-56
2,762	+1	56-59
2,735	0	[3]59-62
2,708	-1	62-65
2,680	-2	65-68
2,653	-3	68-71

[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] USDA, consumer Grade A, volume buyers, store door delivery. [3] The estimated 59-62 cents per dozen is based on prospective conditions for general economic activity, hatching and breaking use, and assumes no change from the estimated 1977 second half total egg production.

The prices, other than the base price, were estimated by assuming the same conditions as under the base except that total egg production was changed.


U.S. FLOCK SIZE*
MILLIONS
290
270
250
1973-75 Average
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF LAYERS ON HAND, FIRST OF MONTH
USDA


RATE OF LAY*
NUMBER
65
63
61
1977
1976
1973-75 Average
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* EGGS PER 100 LAYERS, FIRST OF MONTH
USDA


MATURE CHICKEN SLAUGHTER*
MIL. HEAD
18
14
10
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* FOWL FROM BREEDER AND MARKET EGG FLOCKS.
USDA
NEG. ERS 621 77 (11)

EGGS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER DOZ.
70
60
50
Egg price *
Break-even cost Δ
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* 14 AREA METRO PRICE. ΔESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST.
USDA
NEG. ERS 2609 77 (11)

BROILERS

Broiler producers likely will continue to expand output in 1978. Coupled with expanding supplies of red meats, this will likely result in 1978 wholesale broiler prices averaging moderately below a year earlier.

Broiler Production Large

Producers expanded broiler production throughout 1977 despite high production costs and poor profits during the first half of the year. For all of 1977, broiler meat output will be up around 3 percent from the 9.1 billion pounds in 1976. Output this year would have been larger had it not been for the losses sustained from the extreme cold last winter and the abnormally hot weather over much of the country in late spring and early summer.

Broilers slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	764.7	782.3	3.82	3.82	2,116.4	2,156.2
II	842.9	869.1	3.78	3.80	2,313.7	2,398.5
III	864.8	884.4	3.79	3.78	2,371.6	2,424.1
IV	780.4		3.87		2,185.5	
Annual	3,252.8		3.81		8,987.3	

Through September, broiler meat production in Federally inspected plants totaled 7 billion pounds, up nearly 3 percent from the same period of 1976. Weekly reports show October's output was near year-earlier levels, but chick placements indicate that marketings during the last 6 weeks of 1977 will be up around a tenth from a year earlier (table-7). This would result in October-December slaughter around 4 percent above the fall of 1976.

The relatively favorable profit situation during the summer and early fall, and producers' expectations of lower than year-earlier feed prices, are likely to result in broiler output continuing to expand during January-June 1978. However, it will slip from late 1977 levels and average around 5 to 7 percent above 1977's record level. If feed price prospects remain favorable, producers likely will expand production further in the second half of 1978. However, the margin of increase over 1977 may drop from first half levels as producers adjust to sharply larger pork supplies.

Hatchery Supply Flock Numbers Easing

Broiler producers continued to place a few more pullets in the hatchery supply flock during the first half of 1977 than in 1976. Placements slipped below a year earlier during July and August but rose back above in September. With the large soybean and corn crops being harvested, placements in the hatchery supply flock may continue above a year ago in coming months. The flock probably will be large enough to sustain a moderate increase in early 1978 and, if the need arises, production of eggs from the hatchery supply flock can be increased by holding old layers in the flock 1 or 2 months longer than normal.

Broiler Prices Lower

Broiler prices lagged a year earlier last winter but moved above in the spring despite larger supplies of red meats and broilers. Wholesale prices through October averaged nearly 42 cents a pound in 9 cities, up slightly from the same period of 1976. Prices likely will decline more than usual late this year because of the sharp increase in marketings over a year earlier. Prices in late November and December may drop below the mid-30's of a year ago despite higher than year-earlier competing meat prices.

Broiler prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		9-city	
	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Cents per pound			
I	24.6	23.3	42.2	40.9
II	24.1	24.4	41.7	42.3
III	23.9	24.7	41.5	42.4
IV	19.8		35.5	
Annual	23.1		40.2	

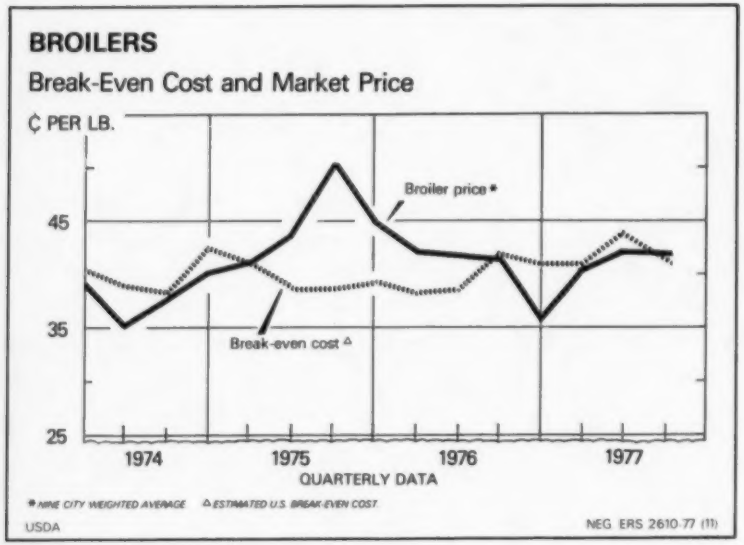
Going into 1978 broiler prices will be supported by smaller beef supplies and gains in consumer incomes. However, increased broiler and pork supplies will more than offset the drop in beef supplies, and broiler prices are expected to average moderately below 1977 during most of the year.

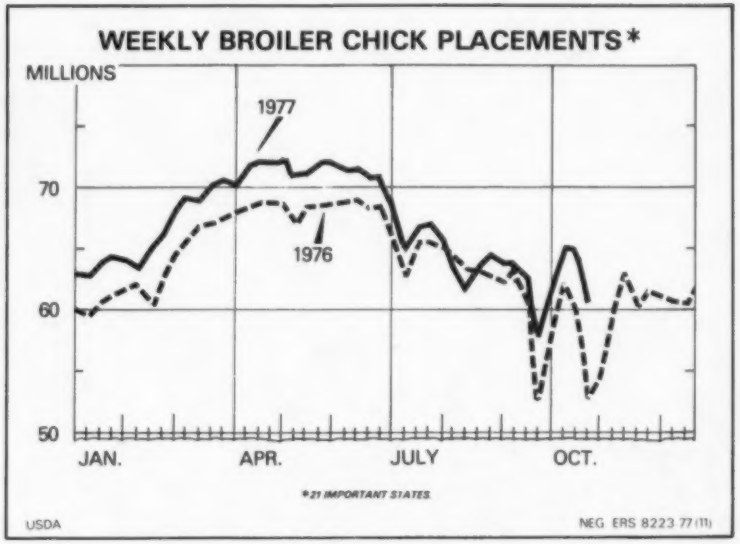
The expected 5 to 7 percent increase in output in the first half of 1978 will likely result in wholesale broiler prices averaging in the upper 30's. This would compare with 41.6 cents a pound for January-June 1977.

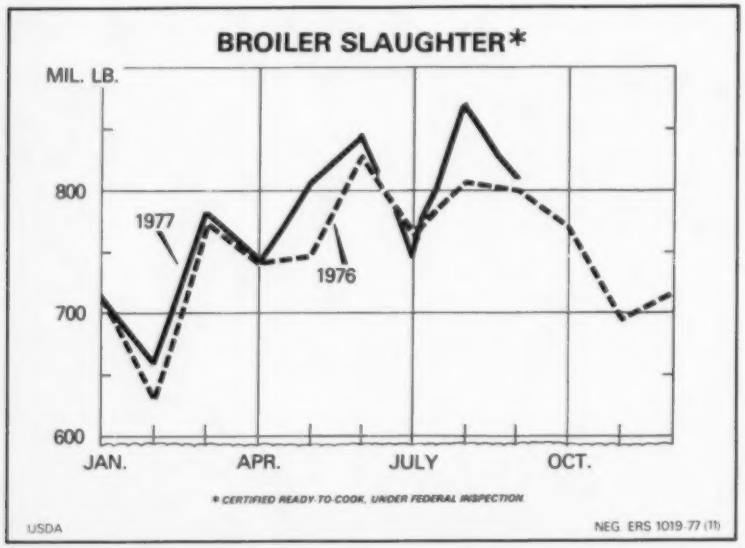
Table 7—Broilers: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1975-77

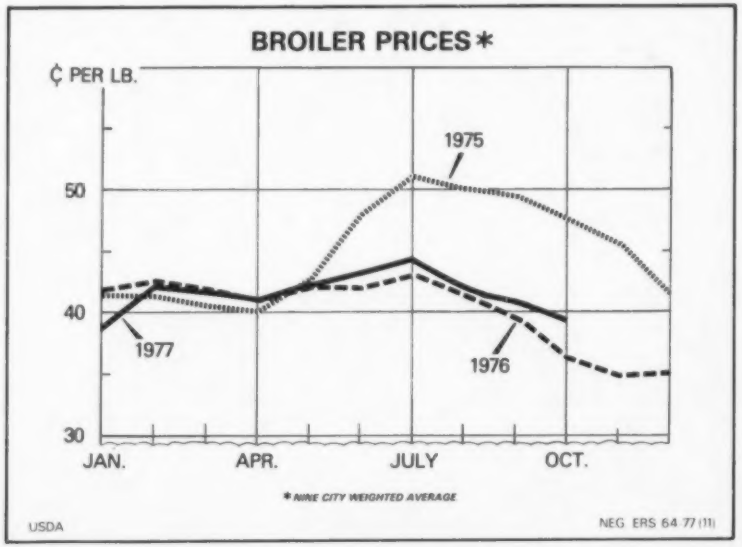
Week ending	Eggs set			Percent of previous year	Chicks placed			Percent of previous year
	1975	1976	1977	1977	1975	1976	1977	1977
	Thousand			*Percent*	*Thousand*			*Percent*
November								
29	72,321	72,364	74,495	103	58,348	58,362	65,524	104
December								
6	68,101	68,144	74,062	109	59,517	59,529	61,610	103
13	72,353	72,298	75,158	104	59,394	59,407	61,192	103
20	73,231	73,013	76,925	105	59,170	59,200	60,788	103
27	72,752	73,107	76,535	105	56,368	56,398	60,599	107
January								
3	65,629	71,739	77,327	108	55,349	59,337	61,750	104
10	64,498	74,074	78,159	106	54,933	59,146	63,003	105
17	66,755	74,905	77,503	103	55,429	59,615	62,986	106
24	68,543	75,253	77,278	103	54,259	60,608	63,984	106
31	69,768	74,205	78,699	106	53,500	61,168	64,335	105
February								
7	70,495	76,270	80,418	105	55,314	61,397	64,124	104
14	71,371	78,697	82,745	105	57,256	62,089	63,498	102
21	71,308	80,029	83,662	105	57,954	60,489	65,240	108
28	72,652	80,988	84,377	104	58,015	62,870	66,212	105
March								
6	72,080	81,478	85,498	105	58,821	64,639	68,052	105
13	71,552	81,792	85,522	105	58,776	65,667	69,314	106
20	72,818	82,119	85,721	104	59,796	66,944	69,109	103
27	73,608	82,832	86,761	105	60,015	67,168	70,238	105
April								
3	73,775	83,405	87,480	105	59,312	67,449	70,720	105
10	73,297	83,261	87,586	105	59,955	68,039	70,271	103
17	71,790	83,073	87,681	106	60,939	68,560	72,030	105
24	73,242	82,134	85,584	104	61,058	68,729	72,011	105
May								
1	73,892	83,482	87,274	105	60,932	68,869	72,407	105
8	73,994	83,402	87,474	105	59,279	68,369	72,040	105
15	74,033	83,302	87,359	105	60,504	67,075	71,057	106
22	74,241	83,767	87,144	104	60,120	68,461	72,221	106
29	74,554	83,815	86,554	103	60,828	68,729	72,098	105
June								
5	74,177	83,331	86,499	104	61,374	68,662	72,328	105
12	70,326	83,105	86,972	105	61,153	68 899	71,435	104
19	70,140	81,278	84,852	104	60,623	69,152	71,369	103
26	72,123	77,495	80,539	104	60,650	68,412	70,686	103
July								
3	72,110	80,098	82,998	104	57,886	68,363	71,078	104
10	71,893	80,641	83,846	104	57,244	66,538	68,607	103
17	71,789	79,981	83,527	104	58,669	62,977	64,921	103
24	70,325	79,317	80,559	102	58,985	65,615	66,850	102
31	70,284	78,625	78,391	100	58,420	65,670	67,259	103
August								
7	70,087	77,629	79,109	102	58,447	65,182	65,857	101
14	68,960	76,895	79,869	104	57,723	64,446	63,512	99
21	70,088	76,602	79,915	104	57,207	63,535	61,780	97
28	69,445	77,723	79,893	103	57,136	63,297	63,428	100
September								
4	66,559	73,964	76,892	104	56,445	62,768	64,531	103
11	58,501	65,270	71,680	110	56,952	62,389	63,874	102
18	68,763	71,768	76,878	107	56,339	63,517	64,347	101
25	70,371	76,254	81,397	107	54,388	60,550	62,721	104
October								
2	67,393	73,645	80,465	109	46,845	52,917	57,366	108
9	59,532	64,939	76,182	117	56,278	58,163	61,450	106
16	63,944	67,252	73,104	109	57,677	62,280	65,368	105
23	69,922	73,567	76,680	104	55,207	60,217	64,934	108
30	72,638	76,581	80,129	105	48,741	53,091	61,198	115
November								
6	70,669	74,739	78,693	105	52,444	54,404	58,528	108
13	72,536	75,892			57,244	60,157		
20	71,753	74,933			59,397	62,816		
	3,667,071	4,024,472			2,998,617	3,293,128		

[1] Includes weeks ending November 30, 1974 through November 22, 1975. [2] Includes weeks ending November 29, 1975 through November 20, 1976.


BROILERS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER LB.
45
35
25
Broiler price*
Break-even cost △
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE △ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST
USDA
NEG. ERS 2610-77 (11)


WEEKLY BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS*
MILLIONS
70
60
50
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*21 IMPORTANT STATES
USDA
NEG. ERS 8223-77 (11)


BROILER SLAUGHTER*
MIL. LB.
800
700
600
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* CERTIFIED READY-TO-COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA
NEG. ERS 1019-77 (11)


BROILER PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
50
40
30
1975
1977
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE
USDA
NEG. ERS 64-77 (11)

Broiler Prospects for Spring 1978

Broilers will be facing greater competition from larger meat supplies. However, because of the large grain and soybean crops being harvested this fall, feed ingredient costs are expected to be below year-earlier levels. The sharpest decline will be in soybean meal, barring unexpected large purchases of soybeans for export during 1978.

Feed grain prices and soybean meal prices likely will move up seasonally after harvest is completed but the sharp rises of 1977 are not expected to recur in 1978. The costs of most other items used in production and marketing of broilers probably will continue their upward trend of recent years.

Broilers will face stronger competition during April-June 1978 from larger supplies of red meats. Beef supplies likely will be lower with larger fed beef output more than offset by smaller nonfed beef production. However, smaller total beef production will be more than offset by increased pork production. Pork production may be up a tenth or more and beef may only drop 3 to 4 percent. Prices of Choice steers in Omaha next spring are expected to average near a year earlier but barrows and gilts at 7 markets may trail April-June 1977 by $6 to $8 a hundredweight.

If beef and pork supplies and consumer incomes during April-June 1978 are about as expected, and broiler output is up around 6 percent from the previous year, wholesale prices in 9 cities would be expected to average 4 to 6 cents per pound below the 42 cents of last year (table 8). Past relationships suggest that if other factors remain unchanged, a 10-percent change in broiler output from a year earlier would result in approximately an equal percentage change in broiler prices in the opposite direction.

Table 8—Estimated 2nd quarter 1978 broiler price/consumption relationships[1]

Domestic civilian per capita consumption		Estimated 9-city wholesale broiler price
Pounds	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per lb.
9.3	-15	45-47
9.8	-10	43-45
10.3	-5	41-43
10.8	-0-	[2]39-41
11.3	+5	37-39
11.8	+10	35-37
12.3	+15	33-35

[1]Based on historical relationships. [2]The estimated 39-41 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats and general economic activity and assumes no change from a year earlier in per capita consumption of broilers.

The price other than the base 39-41 cents per pound were estimated by assuming the same conditions for competing meats and economic activity as under the base but various changes from a year earlier in the per capita consumption of broilers.

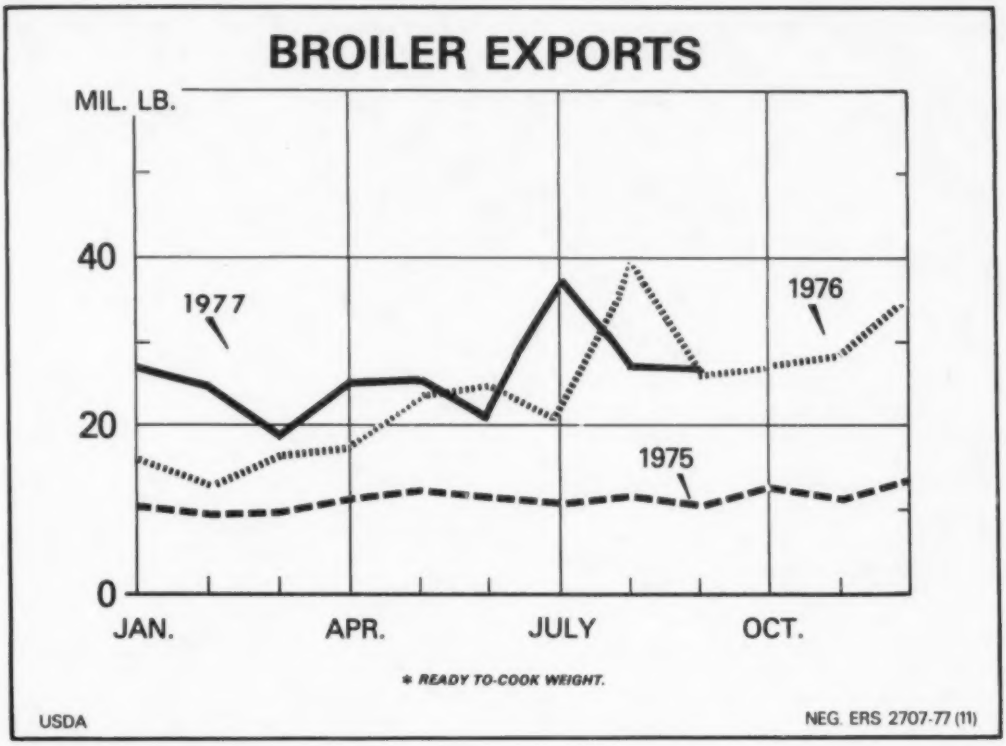
Exports Record Large

Exports of young chickens (primarily broilers) for all of 1977 likely will exceed the record 287 million pounds exported in 1976. During January-September exports of whole young chickens and cut-up chicken and parts totaled 235 million pounds, 20 percent above the like period of 1976. Exports of young chicken during the balance of 1977 may not match year-earlier levels because of a sharp drop from 1976's exports to Iraq. Even so, exports for all of 1977 likely will set a new record.

In addition to these exports, shipments to the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands through September totaled 107 million pounds, about 5 percent more than a year earlier.

Table 9—Young chicken: Supply and utilization, second quarter 1965-77

Year	Production	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Population	Per capita
	Million pounds								*Pounds*
1965	1,515	29	1,544	26	26	21	1,470	191.2	7.7
1966	1,647	27	1,674	27	31	25	1,590	193.1	8.2
1967	1,735	55	1,790	49	37	30	1,675	194.9	8.5
1968	1,696	38	1,734	28	36	23	1,646	196.8	8.4
1969	1,848	26	1,874	23	46	17	1,788	198.8	9.0
1970	2,035	39	2,074	43	45	20	1,966	201.3	9.8
1971	1,958	44	2,002	39	50	18	1,895	203.9	9.3
1972	2,137	30	2,167	24	48	10	2,085	206.2	10.1
1973	2,048	21	2,069	20	50	9	1,990	207.9	9.6
1974	2,160	35	2,195	37	54	9	2,095	209.5	10.0
1975	2,092	28	2,120	23	64	9	2,024	211.2	9.6
1976[1]	2,332	19	2,352	20	103	9	2,220	212.8	10.4
1977	2,416	27	2,443	34	106	8	2,294	214.4	10.7



USDA Purchases

USDA began purchasing young chicken meat for the child nutrition and elderly feeding programs in August. Purchases through November 15 totaled 28.9 million pounds of fresh frozen cut-up chicken, 144,000 pounds of bulk pack chicken and 2.4 million pounds of cooked frozen cut-up chicken. These purchases compare with 16.8 million pounds of fresh frozen cut-up chicken and 576,000 pounds of cooked frozen cut-up chicken during the same period in 1976. Based on past purchasing programs, purchases likely will continue during the rest of 1977.

1977 Broiler Consumption Continues Uptrend

The demand for broilers has been strong this year. Consumption of young chicken (primarily broilers) for 1977 is expected to total around a pound above the record 40.4 pounds per person in 1976. Per capita consumption of other chicken in 1977 may show a small increase from the 2.9 pounds per person in 1976. If broiler output expands as expected in 1978, consumption of young chicken will likely increase 1 to 2 pounds per capita from 1977 levels.

TURKEYS

Turkey producers are expected to respond to lower production costs and good profits this fall by increasing production for 1978. Larger supplies of both competing meats and turkeys will likely cause a moderate decline in turkey prices in 1978.

Smaller 1977 Turkey Crop

Turkey production during much of 1977 has lagged year-earlier levels. This year's turkey crop is estimated at 138 million birds, 1 percent fewer than in 1976 (table 11). This is in line with the reported 1 percent fewer poults produced between September 1976 and August 1977. Heavy breeds were estimated to total 126 million, up 2 percent from the previous year, but light breeds were down 26 percent to 12 million. The change towards more heavy breed and fewer light breed turkeys probably reflects the demand for heavier turkeys for further processing.

Turkey meat output in Federally inspected plants during January-September totaled 1,247 million pounds (ready-to-cook weight), down 3 percent

Turkey slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	14.7	15.0	17.9	17.9	206.6	209.5
II	27.1	26.3	17.2	17.6	368.5	365.4
III	49.6	46.2	18.1	18.4	710.4	672.2
IV	43.0		19.5		664.5	
Annual	134.3		18.3		1,950.1	

from the same months of 1976. There were 4 percent fewer turkeys marketed, but the average liveweight was up a little over 1 percent. Output for October-December this year may be about the same as in 1976. Poult production for marketing this fall was down about 1 percent, but more of these poults were heavier breeds than a year ago and will result in a continuation of heavier marketing weights.

As of September 1, turkey breeder flock owners indicated that they planned to hold 4 percent fewer breeder hens on December 1 this year than last. However, prospects for significantly lower feed prices in the first half of 1978 and strong turkey prices this fall will likely cause breeder flock owners to alter earlier plans.

Better profitability this fall has caused turkey producers to step up poult production for marketing during the seasonally light months of early 1978. Poult production during September-October, largely for marketing in early 1978, was 5 percent above a year earlier (table 10). Although turkey meat output may be up nearly a tenth in the first half of 1978, supplies will show little increase because of reduced storage stocks of frozen turkey at the beginning of the year. Turkey output during July-December 1978 may continue above a year earlier, but the margin over 1977 will narrow because of seasonally increasing turkey production and prospects for sharply larger pork output in the second half of 1978.

Turkey Prices Strong

Market prices of turkeys so far this year have been above a year earlier. For the first 9 months of 1977, turkey prices for 8 to 16 pound young hen turkeys at New York averaged nearly 52 cents a pound, 3 cents above a year earlier. Turkey prices have increased moderately in recent months as turkey supplies lagged a year earlier. October's prices for young hens at New York averaged 57 cents a pound, more than 6 cents above July and nearly a dime above October 1976. Turkey prices will remain strong until the holiday demand has been filled. Fourth quarter prices are expected to aver-

Turkey prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		New York wholesale			
			Young hens 8-16 pounds		Young toms 14-20 pounds	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Cents per pound					
I	32.8	33.0	49.3	50.2	47.6	51.4
II	31.7	33.6	48.2	51.5	49.3	51.7
III	31.0	33.9	48.5	53.1	47.7	52.6
IV	31.8		49.0		50.2	
Annual	31.7		48.7		48.7	

Table 10— Turkey hatchery operations, United States and 9 States, 1976-77

Month	United States				9-States[1]			
	Hatch		Change from year earlier		Hatch		Change from year earlier	
	1976	1977	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month	1976	1977	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*
January	10,582	10,771	2	2	8,565	8,389	-2	-3
February	13,775	12,733	-8	-3	10,782	9,767	-9	-7
March	18,754	18,091	-4	-5	14,838	13,851	-7	-8
April	20,110	19,511	-3	-3	15,617	14,903	-5	-6
May	20,348	20,967	3	0	15,789	15,963	1	-2
June	19,609	18,925	-3	-6	15,412	14,755	-4	-4
July	15,414	15,447	0	-1	12,077	12,252	1	-1
August	8,165	8,147	0	-3	6,648	6,607	-1	-3
September	4,259	4,514	6	5	3,635	3,768	4	4
October	4,967	5,163	4	7	4,055	4,056	0	5
November	6,087			-1	5,075			-12
December	7,633				5,974			

[1] California, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Tom turkey prices, 24-26 pounds, f.o.b. New York[1]

Month	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	Cents per pound				
January	41.5	48.9	49.8	52.4	54.2
February	44.5	47.0	46.9	50.7	55.4
March	51.1	45.6	44.6	53.7	57.3
April	52.5	39.3	46.0	54.6	58.1
May	57.6	41.1	50.0	60.0	59.3
June	62.7	41.4	53.2	56.3	59.0
July	64.2	37.4	54.4	56.3	58.1
August	75.4	45.1	56.4	55.4	56.8
September	77.0	46.5	57.9	51.3	56.8
October	67.8	45.2	60.7	51.6	59.0
November	57.7	46.9	60.1	51.6	
December	56.4	49.8	56.9	55.0	
Year	59.0	44.5	53.1	54.1	

[1] U.S. Grade A, frozen, ready-to-cook, carlots or trucklots.

age in the high 50's compared with 49 cents a pound during October-December 1976.

Turkey prices in early 1978 are expected to decline seasonally from the fourth quarter of 1977, and to average in the low to mid-50-cents-a-pound range. Turkeys will face increased competition from larger pork and broiler supplies in 1978 but this will be partially offset by reduced cold storage holdings of turkey meat on January 1, 1978.

During the second half of 1978, prices probably will show less seasonal increase than usual. Prices during 1978 probably will average well below 1977 because of sharply higher production of pork and broilers, as well as increased turkey production.

Turkey Stocks Down

Turkey stocks, although increasing seasonally have slipped below year-ago levels in recent months. On November 1, turkey stocks totaled 446 million pounds, down 66 million from a year earlier. Stocks likely will remain below 1976 levels during the balance of 1977, and on January 1, 1978, stocks may be the smallest since the early sixties.

Turkey Exports Lower in 1977

Exports of turkey meat this year are running well below a year ago. During the first 9 months of 1977, exports of turkey meat totaled about 40 million pounds, down 14 percent from the like period of 1976. Exports were sharply lower to Canada, Italy, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Exports picked up and exceeded a year earlier in July-September, but exports of turkey for all of 1977 likely will not match the 65 million pounds of 1976. Strong domestic turkey prices this fall will dampen foreign demand for turkey during the balance of 1977.

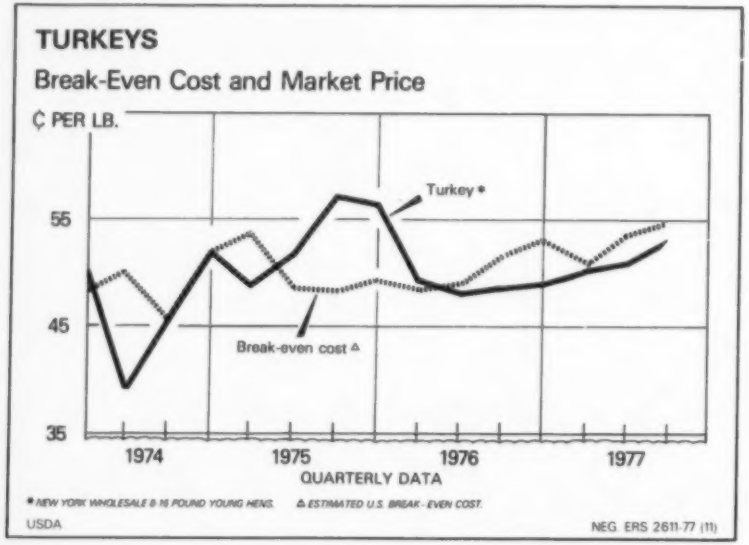
USDA Purchases Lag

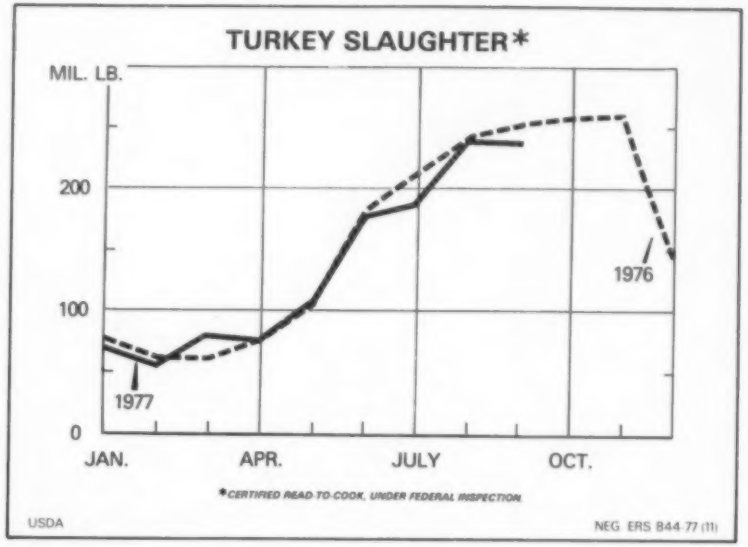
Purchases of turkey by USDA this year for use in the child nutrition and elderly feeding programs were started in July. By November 8 purchases totaled 16.9 million pounds of ready-to-cook young turkey and 17.4 million pounds of cooked turkey rolls. This was the equivalent of about 44.5 million pounds of ready-to-cook carcass turkey. During the 1976 period, purchases totaled 37 million pounds of ready-to-cook young turkey and 13 million pounds of cooked turkey rolls, the equivalent 58 million pounds of ready-to-cook carcass turkey. Offers to sell turkey to USDA in recent weeks have been well below year-earlier levels.

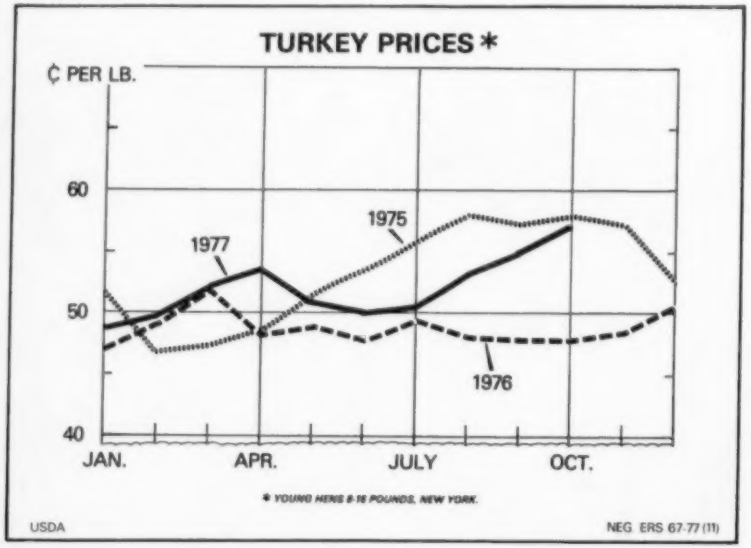
Turkey Consumption Near Year-Earlier Level

Although turkey meat output this year has been running below a year ago, per capita consumption of turkey for all of 1977 may about match or slightly exceed the 9.2 pounds for 1976 because of lower exports and a drawdown of cold storage stocks.

Consumption of further processed turkey continued to trend upward in 1977. Through September, further processed turkey other than whole bird in Federally inspected plants totaled 493 million pounds, up 15 percent from 1976. Further processed whole turkey declined 2 percent to 300 million pounds but cut-up turkey gained 9 percent to 310 million pounds. Total quantities used for further processing and cut-up were equal to 88 percent of the turkey output in Federally inspected plants during this period. There was a drawdown of 54 million pounds in cold storage stocks during January-September, but how much of this that was further processed is not known.


TURKEYS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER LB.
55
45
35
Turkey *
Break-even cost Δ
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* NEW YORK WHOLESALE 8-16 POUND YOUNG HENS. Δ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST.
USDA
NEG. ERS 2611-77 (11)


TURKEY SLAUGHTER*
MIL. LB.
200
100
0
1976
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CERTIFIED READ-TO-COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION.
USDA
NEG. ERS 844-77 (11)


TURKEY PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
60
50
40
1977
1975
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* YOUNG HENS 8-16 POUNDS, NEW YORK.
USDA
NEG. ERS 67-77 (11)

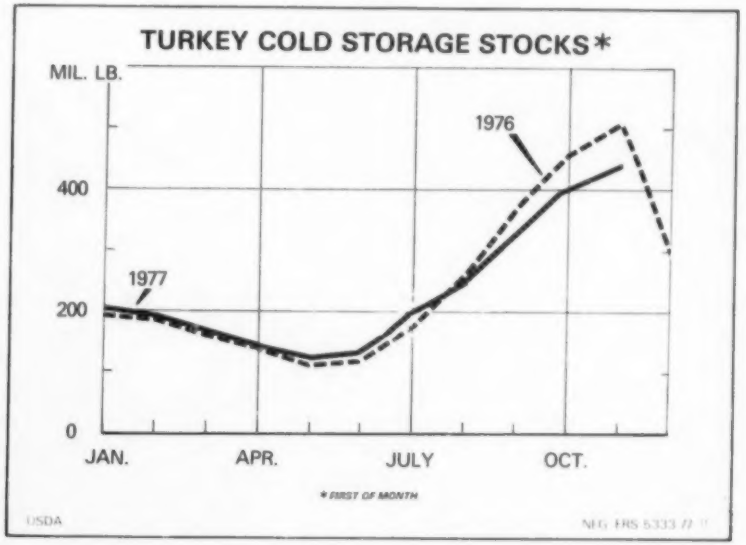

TURKEY COLD STORAGE STOCKS*
MIL. LB.
400
200
0
1976
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* FIRST OF MONTH
USDA

Table 11— Turkeys: Number raised[1] [2]

State	Heavy breeds[4]			Light breeds[5]			Total all breeds		
	1976	1977	1977 as % of 1976	1976[6]	1977	1977 as % of 1976	1976[6]	1977	1977 as % of 1976
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*Percent*
Arkansas[2]							10,138	10,200	101
California	16,402	16,697	102	1,112	711	64	17,514	17,408	99
Colorado[2]							3,695	3,220	87
Connecticut	30	33	110	3	3	100	33	36	109
Georgia	1,844	1,548	84	9	0		1,853	1,548	84
Illinois	436	666	153	5	2	40	441	668	151
Indiana	4,765	4,770	100	423	220	52	5,188	4,990	96
Iowa	6,473	6,149	95	39	28	72	6,512	6,177	95
Kansas	108	134	124	0	0		108	134	124
Louisiana	2	1	50	0	0		2	1	50
Maine	2	3	150	2	1	50	4	4	100
Maryland	83	86	104	7	5	71	90	91	101
Massachusetts	122	113	93	21	15	71	143	128	90
Michigan[2]							1,170	1,200	103
Minnesota	17,207	17,542	102	7,163	5,563	78	24,370	23,105	95
Missouri[2]							9,725	9,783	101
Nebraska	473	536	113	0	0		473	536	113
New Hampshire	19	21	111	7	4	57	26	25	96
New Jersey	66	42	64	15	10	67	81	52	64
New York[2]							150	158	105
North Carolina[2]							16,700	16,900	101
North Dakota	612	640	105	348	60	17	960	700	73
Ohio[2]	2,300	2,100	91	460	450	98	2,760	2,550	92
Oklahoma[2]	1,800	1,365	76	0	0		1,800	1,365	76
Oregon[2]							1,300	1,420	109
Pennsylvania	2,969	2,947	99	726	588	81	3,695	3,535	96
Rhode Island	10	8	80	0	0		10	8	80
South Carolina	2,147	2,275	106	471	0		2,618	2,275	87
South Dakota	630	591	94	375	405	108	1,005	996	99
Tennessee	4	3	75	0	0		4	3	75
Texas	9,300	9,100	98	0	0		9,300	9,100	98
Utah	3,417	3,177	93	23	10	43	3,440	3,187	93
Vermont	7	6	86	0	2		7	8	114
Virginia[2]							7,297	8,659	119
West Virginia	763	981	129	1,030	1,039	101	1,793	2,020	113
Wisconsin	5,059	5,504	109	19	8	42	5,078	5,512	109
Other States[3]	414	291	70	64	7	11	478	298	62
U.S.	123,714	126,000	102	16,247	12,000	74	139,961	138,000	99

[1] Based on turkeys hatched September 1, 1976 through August 31, 1977. Excludes young turkeys lost. [2] Breakdown by breads not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. [3] Alabama, Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Washington and Wyoming combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4] Normal nature marketing weight 12 pounds or over. [5] Normal mature marketing weight under 12 pounds. [6] Revised.

Table 12—Cold storage holdings of high protein foods

Item	Unit	Nov. 1, 1975	Nov. 1, 1976	Oct. 1, 1977	Nov. 1, 1977
		Thousands			
Total eggs[1]	Case	1,235	764	905	892
Shell	do.	55	32	49	51
Frozen	Pound	46,628	28,899	33,821	33,205
Total poultry	do.	599,796	664,537	566,382	602,767
Total chicken	do.	121,339	134,483	149,445	147,997
Broilers, fryers, and roasters	do.	21,877	24,288	31,738	33,245
Hens	do.	44,732	40,489	38,569	33,336
Other frozen chicken	do.	54,730	79,706	79,138	81,416
Total turkey	do.	472,414	512,337	408,352	446,312
Whole	do.	421,759	446,514	339,445	373,475
Other	do.	50,655	65,823	68,907	72,837
Ducks	do.	6,043	7,717	8,585	8,458
All red meats[2]	do.	548,202	687,829	588,973	538,909
Beef	do.	264,503	405,028	355,222	302,543
Frozen pork	do.	206,677	201,461	155,205	169,215
Pork in cooler[3]	do.				
Total cheese	do.	388,278	501,147	565,173	499,493

[1] Frozen eggs converted on the basis of 39.5 pounds to the case. [2] Includes other meat and meat products. Does not include cooler beef and cooler pork. [3] Not available.

Table 13—Estimated costs and returns for market eggs[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs all eggs		Wholesale, cartoned Grade A large eggs		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	14 metro areas price[3]	
	Cents per dozen				
Annual average[2]					
1972	17.3	28.9	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973	29.2	41.7	58.1	64.3	6.2
1974	31.0	45.4	63.5	63.0	-0.4
1975	29.0	43.5	61.8	62.9	1.0
1976[4]	28.6	43.1	61.6	69.9	8.2
1974					
I	31.2	45.6	63.6	72.3	8.6
II	27.5	41.9	59.9	52.1	-7.8
III	31.4	45.8	63.8	59.9	-3.9
IV	34.1	48.5	66.6	67.8	1.2
1975					
I	30.8	45.3	63.6	65.0	1.3
II	28.3	42.8	61.1	55.3	-5.7
III	29.3	43.8	62.1	61.9	-0.2
IV	27.8	42.3	60.6	69.1	8.5
1976					
I	26.9	41.4	59.9	67.7	7.9
II	27.9	42.4	60.9	62.5	1.7
III	31.4	45.9	64.4	71.2	6.8
IV	28.4	42.9	61.4	77.9	16.5
1977[4]					
I	29.6	44.1	63.3	74.4	11.1
II	31.8	46.3	65.5	58.9	-6.5
III	25.2	39.7	58.9	62.7	3.8

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for Grade A large eggs. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 14-- Estimated costs and returns for broilers[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2,3,5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2,3]	9-city weighted average price[2]	
	Cents per pound				
Annual average[2]					
1972	9.0	14.3	28.2	28.2	-0.1
1973	16.4	22.2	39.8	42.4	2.6
1974	15.8	22.0	40.1	38.0	-2.0
1975	15.1	21.3	39.4	45.2	5.8
1976[4]	15.0	21.3	40.2	40.2	0.0
1974					
I	16.1	22.3	40.5	39.3	-1.2
II	15.2	21.3	39.2	35.3	-3.9
III	14.5	20.7	38.3	37.7	-0.7
IV	17.7	23.8	42.6	40.7	-2.3
1975					
I	16.4	22.6	41.3	41.2	0.0
II	14.5	20.7	38.7	43.7	5.0
III	14.6	20.8	38.7	50.3	11.6
IV	15.0	21.2	39.3	45.1	5.8
1976					
I	13.7	20.0	38.4	42.2	3.8
II	14.1	20.4	38.9	41.7	2.8
III	16.5	22.8	42.2	41.5	-0.7
IV	15.8	22.1	41.2	35.5	-5.7
1977[4]					
I	15.7	22.0	41.2	40.9	-0.3
II	17.6	23.9	43.7	42.4	-1.3
III	16.0	22.3	41.6	42.3	0.7

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly broiler slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for ready-to-cook broilers. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 15--Estimated costs and returns for turkeys[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2,3,5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2,3]	New York young hen price[2]	
	Cents per pound				
Annual average[3]					
1972	13.5	20.5	34.1	36.6	2.5
1973	25.6	33.1	50.6	64.5	13.9
1974	22.5	30.7	48.8	47.0	-1.8
1975	22.1	30.7	49.4	55.1	5.8
1976[4]	22.5	31.5	51.3	48.6	-2.8
1974					
I	22.1	30.3	48.4	49.9	1.6
II	23.6	31.8	50.2	39.2	-11.0
III	19.9	28.1	45.6	45.6	-0.1
IV	24.8	33.0	51.7	52.1	0.4
1975					
I	25.6	34.2	53.8	48.9	-4.9
II	21.6	30.2	48.7	51.7	3.0
III	21.3	29.9	48.4	57.1	8.7
IV	22.2	30.8	49.5	56.5	7.0
1976					
I	20.2	29.2	48.5	49.4	0.9
II	20.5	29.5	48.9	48.1	-0.9
III	22.6	31.6	51.5	48.5	-3.0
IV	24.1	33.1	53.3	48.7	-4.7
1977[4]					
I	22.1	31.1	50.9	50.4	-0.6
II	24.3	33.3	53.7	51.0	-2.6
III	25.4	34.4	55.0	53.2	-1.8

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly turkey slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for heavy young turkey hens. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 16--Forced molt layers as a percent of hens and pullets of laying age, first of month, selected states, 1976-77

State	Being molted						Molt completed					
	September		October		November		September		October		November	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Percent											
Alabama	1.5	2.0	1.0	3.0	.5	2.0	7.0	10.0	7.5	9.5	6.5	9.5
Arkansas	2.5	2.5	2.0	4.0	2.5	3.0	6.0	6.5	7.5	5.5	6.5	6.0
California	8.0	7.0	9.5	12.0	11.5	10.0	32.0	37.5	33.5	38.0	35.0	40.0
Florida	1.5	3.5	1.5	5.0	5.0	2.5	17.0	18.0	17.0	17.5	15.5	20.0
Georgia	3.5	3.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	15.0	13.0	16.0	10.0	16.0	12.0
Indiana	1.5	.5	2.5	.5	4.0	1.0	4.5	4.0	7.0	4.0	8.5	4.5
Iowa	2.5	2.5	5.5	1.5	4.5	2.0	6.0	2.5	8.5	5.0	12.0	2.5
Mississippi	2.0	5.5	1.5	5.5	4.0	1.0	.5	1.5	.5	.5	.5	5.0
New York	3.0	.5	1.5	.5	1.0	1.0	1.5	3.0	3.0	2.0	4.5	1.5
North Carolina	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.0	2.0	2.0	7.5	7.0	7.5	7.5	5.5	6.5
Ohio	2.5	1.5	2.0	1.5	.5	1.5	9.0	5.5	7.0	6.5	5.0	6.0
Oregon	10.5	3.0	7.0	8.5	4.0	4.0	25.0	28.5	32.0	21.0	34.0	29.0
Pennsylvania	.5	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.0	5.5	4.5	8.5	5.0	6.0	3.5
South Carolina	1.0	1.0	2.5	.5	3.0	1.5	9.0	8.5	8.0	8.0	8.5	7.0
Tennessee	4.0	1.5	4.0	1.5	3.0	1.0	7.0	9.5	10.0	8.5	10.0	7.0
Texas	1.5	.5	.5	1.5	1.5	2.0	5.5	3.5	5.5	3.5	5.0	4.5
Washington	8.0	9.5	7.5	9.0	9.0	11.5	36.0	36.5	37.0	39.5	34.5	35.0
17 States	3.5	3.2	3.6	4.6	4.6	3.8	13.9	14.4	15.0	13.9	14.9	14.7

Table 17— Factors influencing and indicative of the demand for eggs and poultry, 1965-77[1]

Year	Total population July 1[2]	Average number of people employed	Per capita disposable income	BLS consumer price index (1967=100)	Civilian per capita disappearance				Prices received by farmers			BLS retail price		
					Eggs	Ready-to-cook basis			Eggs per dozen	Non-broilers per pound	Turkeys per pound	Grade A large eggs per dozen	Broilers and fryers per pound	Turkeys per pound
						Chicken		Turkey						
						Broilers	Other							
	Million	*Million*	*Dollars*		*Number*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Cents*
1965	194.2	71.1	2,430	94.5	314	29.6	3.8	7.4	33.7	8.9	22.2	52.7	39.0	48.4
19	196.5	72.9	2,597	97.2	313	32.0	3.6	7.8	39.1	9.7	23.1	59.9	41.3	50.6
1967	198.6	74.4	2,740	100.0	320	32.4	4.1	8.6	31.3	7.9	19.6	49.6	38.1	48.8
1968	200.6	75.9	2,930	104.2	316	32.8	3.9	7.9	34.0	8.2	20.5	52.9	39.8	46.4
1969	202.6	77.9	3,111	109.8	310	34.8	3.6	8.3	40.0	9.7	22.4	62.1	42.2	48.8
1970	204.8	78.6	3,348	116.3	311	36.9	3.6	8.0	37.7	8.8	22.6	61.4	40.8	55.9
1971	207.0	79.1	3,588	121.3	314	36.7	3.7	8.4	31.1	7.8	22.1	52.9	41.0	54.6
1972	208.8	81.7	3,837	125.3	308	38.4	3.6	9.0	31.7	9.1	22.2	52.4	41.4	55.3
1973	210.4	84.4	4,285	133.1	294	37.4	3.3	8.5	54.1	16.1	38.2	78.1	59.6	73.5
1974	211.9	85.9	4,647	147.7	288	37.5	3.6	8.9	53.0	9.4	28.0	78.3	56.0	72.7
1975	213.5	84.8	5,078	161.2	279	36.9	3.4	8.6	52.8	10.5	34.8	77.0	63.3	72.6
1976[4]	215.1	87.6	5,512	170.5	276	40.4	2.9	9.2	58.8	([6])	31.7	84.1	59.7	73.7
1977[5]	216.8	90.4	6,020	182.0	271	41.3	3.0	9.2	54.0	([6])	35.0	83.0	59.8	73.2

[1] Includes available data for Alaska and Hawaii beginning in 1961. [2] Includes armed forces overseas. [3] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. Series began in 1964. [4] Preliminary. [5] Forecast. [6] Discontinued June 1976.

Table 18—Prices and price spreads for eggs and frying chickens, for selected cities and 10-city average

Item	Grade A large eggs			U.S. grade A fryers		
	July 1977	August 1977	September 1977	July 1977	August 1977	September 1977
	Cents per dozen			*Cents per pound*		
10-city Average prices						
Farm price	49.6	52.6	52.6	34.6	33.2	32.3
Price to retailer	66.9	68.4	68.0	47.8	47.1	46.9
Retail price	80.1	81.6	82.6	64.9	63.9	64.1
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	30.5	29.0	30.0	30.3	30.7	31.8
Farm to retailer	17.3	15.8	15.4	13.2	13.9	14.6
Retail	13.2	13.2	14.6	17.1	16.8	17.2
New York Prices						
Farm price	49.0	52.6	52.2	34.5	34.0	32.0
Price to retailer	63.0	65.0	66.0	46.5	46.5	44.5
Retail price	87.4	88.6	86.1	67.8	67.1	68.3
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	38.4	36.0	33.9	33.3	33.1	36.3
Farm to retailer	14.0	12.4	13.8	12.0	12.5	12.5
Retail	24.4	23.6	20.1	21.3	20.6	23.8
Boston prices						
Farm price	53.7	56.0	55.9	34.5	34.6	32.1
Price to retailer	68.5	70.5	70.5	47.5	45.0	47.5
Retail price	92.7	91.8	92.2	70.7	69.6	73.9
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	39.0	35.8	36.3	36.2	35.0	41.8
Farm to retailer	14.8	14.5	14.6	13.0	10.4	15.4
Retail	24.2	21.3	21.7	23.2	24.6	26.4
Chicago prices						
Farm price	48.0	50.0	50.6	33.4	32.0	31.5
Price to retailer	66.0	66.0	64.0	45.5	44.3	45.0
Retail price	82.9	86.0	86.1	62.5	61.7	55.6
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	34.9	36.0	35.5	29.1	29.7	24.1
Farm to retailer	18.0	16.0	13.4	12.1	12.3	13.5
Retail	16.9	20.0	22.1	17.0	17.4	10.6
St. Louis prices						
Farm price	53.2	55.2	56.2	34.1	32.5	31.6
Price to retailer	65.5	67.5	67.5	45.0	42.3	43.5
Retail price	76.3	78.2	79.2	59.3	59.3	58.4
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	23.1	23.0	23.0	25.2	26.8	26.8
Farm to retailer	12.3	12.3	11.3	10.9	9.8	11.9
Retail	10.8	10.7	11.7	14.3	17.0	14.9
San Francisco prices						
Farm prices	48.0	53.0	53.0	35.2	33.5	32.9
Price to retailer	62.5	65.0	67.2	54.0	55.5	56.0
Retail price	71.2	75.2	78.5	70.5	69.2	71.6
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	23.2	22.2	25.5	35.3	35.7	38.7
Farm to retailer	14.5	12.0	14.2	18.8	22.0	23.1
Retail	8.7	10.2	11.3	16.5	13.7	15.6
Atlanta prices						
Farm price	48.0	52.5	51.7	33.4	31.9	31.7
Price to retailer	62.0	62.0	60.0	44.6	43.5	43.0
Retail price	74.5	79.6	80.0	68.1	59.5	61.7
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	26.5	27.1	28.3	34.7	27.6	30.0
Farm to retailer	14.0	9.5	8.3	11.2	11.6	11.3
Retail	12.5	17.6	20.0	23.5	16.0	18.7

TRENDS IN MARKETING SPREADS FOR EGGS AND POULTRY, 1966-77

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ABSTRACT

The cost of marketing poultry and eggs has risen moderately, but steadily, for nearly 2 decades. Much of this increase in cost has been offset by gains in efficiency in performing various marketing functions. But in recent years, increases in various marketing costs have been large enough to more than offset gains in efficiency and have led to widening of marketing spreads at all marketing levels. However, spreads for various categories of eggs, frying chickens and turkeys differed considerably among 12 selected cities.

KEYWORDS: Marketing spreads, costs, eggs, chickens, and turkeys.

Price spreads for eggs and poultry widened moderately, but steadily, during 1971-76. Indications are that these trends are continuing through at least the first 9 months of 1977.

The farmer to consumer margin for Grade A large eggs sold in 12 cities averaged 25 cents per dozen for the period 1971-76, above the 22 cents per dozen during 1966-71. The farmer to consumer spread for January-September 1977 averaged 30.5 cents per dozen. Farmer to consumer spreads on eggs varied from 17 cents per dozen in Denver to 33 cents in New York during 1971-76. During the first 3 quarters of 1977, the spread varied from 38.3 cents per dozen in Boston to 22.2 in Denver.

The farmer to consumer spread for ready-to-cook frying chicken averaged 26 cents per pound during 1971-76, up from 22 cents a pound for 1966-71. During the first 9 months of 1977, the farmer to consumer spread for frying chickens averaged 30 cents per pound. The farmer to consumer spread for frying chickens varied from 16 cents a pound in Denver to 31 cents in Boston during 1971-76. From January through September 1977, the farmer to consumer spread on frying chickens averaged 21 cents per pound in Denver, 35 cents in Boston, and 38 cents per pound in Seattle.

The farmer to consumer spread for 8 to 16 pound turkeys averaged 30.3 cents per pound during 1971-76 and 31.6 cents during the first 9 months of 1977, compared with 22 cents in 1966-71. The farm to consumer spread for 8 to 16 pound ready-to-cook medium turkeys varied from 28 cents per pound in Los Angeles and San Francisco to 35 cents in Boston during October-December 1971-76. During the first 9 months of 1977, the farmer to consumer spread varied from 27.5 cents per pound in San Fransisco to 35.9 cents in New York.

Both the farm to retailer and retail price spreads tended to widen on all three classes of commodities during 1971-76, compared with 1966-71. The farm to retail spread on large eggs averaged 12.8 cents per dozen in 1966-71, 14.5 cents per dozen in 1971-76, and 16.7 cents per dozen for the first nine months of 1977. The farm to retailer spread for fryers averaged 11.5 cents per pound during 1966-71, 12.8 cents per pound for 1971-76, and 14.0 cents per pound for the first 9 months of 1977. The farm to retailer spread for 8 to 16 pound ready-to-cook turkeys averaged 12.2 cents per pound during 1966-71, 15.5 cents per pound during 1971-76, and 17.2 cents per pound during the first 9 months of 1977.

Retail spreads for large eggs averaged 9.1 cents per dozen during 1966-71, 10.2 cents per dozen during 1971-76, and 13.8 cent during the first 9 months of 1977. The retail spread for frying chicken averaged 10.7 cents per pound from 1966-71, 12.9 cents per pound during 1971-76, and 16.2 cents per pound during the first 9 months of 1977. The retail spread

Table 1—Changes in marketing spreads for eggs and poultry, 12 major cities

Item	1966-71	1971-76	Jan.-Sept. 1977
	Cents per dozen		
Grade A large eggs:			
Farm to consumer	22.0	25.0	[1] 30.5
Farm to retailer	12.8	14.5	[1] 16.7
Retail	9.1	10.2	[1] 13.8
Farm share of consumer's dollar spent for eggs[2]	61.0%	63.0%	63.4%
	Cents per pound		
Frying chickens:			
Farm to consumer	22.0	26.0	30.0
Farm to retailer	11.5	12.8	14.0
Retail	10.7	12.9	16.2
Farm share of consumer's dollar spent for frying chicken[2]	47.0%	52.0%	52.0%
Turkeys, 8 to 16 pounds:			
Farm to consumer	22.0	30.3	31.6
Farm to retailer	12.2	15.5	17.2
Retail	10.1	15.0	15.0
Farm share of consumer's dollar spent for turkey[2]	57.0%	57.0%	56.2%

[1] Based on 10 cities. [2] Numbers may not add to exact amounts due to rounding.

for 8-16 pound ready-to-cook turkeys averaged 10.1 cents per pound from 1966-71, 15 cents per pound during 1971-76 and for the first 9 months of 1977.

Gains in efficiency in performing various marketing functions have been realized over the last two decades. But in recent years, increases in various marketing costs have been large enough to more than offset gains in efficiency. The widening of price spreads of poultry and eggs began in about 1970 and has continued, reflecting steadily increasing costs of marketing. Almost all components of marketing costs have risen during the past 5 years: packaging and energy have risen substantially. Labor and overhead costs have also risen during the past several years and are expected to continue to rise in the future.

Federal legislation to increase the minimum wage will have a direct effect on the cost of marketing poultry and eggs. Much of the labor used in processing and marketing of these products is relatively unskilled and is paid at or near the minimum wage.

Farmers, too, have experienced increased costs. These have been somewhat offset by increases in the farmers' share of the consumer dollar.

Producers of Grade A large eggs received the highest share of the retail price, averaging 63 percent for 1971-76, compared to 61 percent for the period 1966-71. For the first 9 months of 1977, producers of Grade A large eggs received 63.4 percent of the retail price for eggs.

Table 2—Changes in selected cost items (1967=100)

Item	1966-71	1971-76	Jan.-Sept. 1977
Average earnings of employees in food mkt.	112	152	193
Containers & packaging material	104	144	194
Fuel, power, & light	104	180	307
Services	110	155	197
New plant & equip.	107	143	181
Yield on high grade long-term bonds per annum	119	145	146
Prices paid by farmers[1]	107	159	209

[1] Production items, including interest, taxes, and wage rates.

Turkey producers rank second, receiving 57 percent of the retail value in 1971-76 as they had during the previous reporting period. During the first 9 months of 1977, turkey producers received 56.2 percent of the retail value of the product.

Broiler producers received 47 percent of the consumer dollar during 1966-71 and 52 percent both during 1971-76 and during the first 9 months of 1977.

Collection and analysis of price spreads data on poultry and eggs is one of the special studies implemented since 1956 under funds authorized for the U.S. Department of Agriculture by Congress. The 12 cities included in the study for poultry and eggs are Boston, New York, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. Detailed statistics have been published every 5 years since 1961. The latest report, which will be published soon, covers 1971-76. Selected city series on eggs and broilers are carried quarterly in the *Poultry and Egg Situation*. All current data are made available to users on request.

Table 19– Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Item	Data in–	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 1, 5-6.–Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, 50 States														
Average for the month														
Number of layers on farms														
1975	Mil.	285	282	280	276	272	271	270	272	275	278	279	280	277
1976	Mil.	281	280	278	274	271	270	270	272	275	277	279	281	276
1977	Mil.	280	277	275	272	269	267	267	271	277	281			
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1975	No.	1,953	1,771	1,972	1,922	1,991	1,933	1,996	1,991	1,914	1,966	1,905	1,969	233
1976	No.	1,971	1,855	2,006	1,955	2,020	1,961	2,014	1,992	1,916	1,970	1,905	1,971	235
1977	No.	1,956	1,782	2,021	1,974	2,035	1,952	1,987	1,982	1,922	1,988			
Total monthly egg production														
1975	Mil. cs.	15.4	13.9	15.3	14.7	15.1	14.5	15.0	15.0	14.6	15.2	14.8	15.3	178.8
1976	Mil. cs.	15.4	14.4	15.5	14.9	15.2	14.7	15.1	15.0	14.6	15.2	14.8	15.4	180.1
1977	Mil. cs.	15.2	13.7	15.4	14.9	15.2	14.5	14.7	14.9	14.8	15.5			
First of month														
Number of layers on farms														
1975	Mil.	286	284	281	278	274	271	270	270	273	276	279	280	
1976	Mil.	281	281	279	276	271	271	270	270	273	276	278	280	
1977	Mil.	281	278	276	274	270	269	266	268	274	280	282		
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1975	No.	62.6	63.2	63.3	64.0	64.1	64.3	64.5	64.1	64.3	63.3	63.3	63.6	
1976	No.	63.4	63.8	64.2	65.1	65.2	65.1	65.5	64.4	64.1	63.7	63.4	63.7	
1977	No.	63.5	62.6	64.6	65.7	65.7	65.4	64.6	63.6	64.3	63.9	64.4		
Daily rate of egg production														
1975	Mil.	179	179	178	178	175	174	174	173	176	175	176	178	
1976	Mil.	178	179	179	180	177	176	177	174	175	176	176	179	
1977	Mil.	179	174	178	180	177	176	172	171	176	179	182		
Tables 7-9.–Factors in monthly supply of shell eggs, 50 States														
Eggs produced on farms														
1975	1,000 cs.	15,444	13,892	15,317	14,725	15,069	14,528	14,975	15,019	14,608	15,153	14,775	15,325	178,830
1976	1,000 cs.	15,367	14,425	15,472	14,875	15,211	14,711	15,094	15,039	14,611	15,150	14,778	15,403	180,136
1977	1,000 cs.	15,194	13,711	15,419	14,897	15,214	14,486	14,733	14,925	14,792	15,533			
Storage movement of shell eggs														
1975	1,000 cs.	-4	16	-16	-6	42	14	2	-4	-8	-17	-15	-18	-14
1976	1,000 cs.	-8	7	5	0	-4	1	11	11	5	-18	-7	3	6
1977	1,000 cs.	1	15	-2	0	-9	7	-2	9	2	2			
Eggs broken commercially														
1975	1,000 cs.	1,441	1,218	1,215	1,455	1,651	1,898	1,957	1,738	1,698	1,702	1,234	1,229	18,436
1976	1,000 cs.	1,257	1,252	1,722	1,690	1,571	1,866	1,752	1,753	1,781	1,753	1,739	1,590	19,726
1977	1,000 cs.	1,499	1,485	1,876	1,899	2,168	2,338	2,043	2,142	1,961				
Eggs used for hatching														
1975	1,000 cs.	933	1,096	1,093	1,128	1,069	1,046	1,027	953	965	959	1,025	1,066	12,360
1976	1,000 cs.	1,043	1,218	1,227	1,251	1,191	1,160	1,132	1,049	1,034	1,030	1,083	1,130	13,548
1977	1,000 cs.	1,061	1,267	1,285	1,319	1,236	1,178	1,125	1,074	1,110				
Balance														
1975	1,000 cs.	13,074	11,562	13,025	12,148	12,307	11,570	11,989	12,332	11,953	12,509	12,531	13,048	148,048
1976	1,000 cs.	13,075	11,948	12,518	11,934	12,453	11,684	12,199	12,226	11,791	12,385	11,963	12,680	146,856
1977	1,000 cs.	12,633	10,944	12,260	11,679	11,819	10,963	11,567	11,700	11,719				
Tables 13-14.–Commercial production of poultry and red meat, 48 States														
Chicken and turkey meat, Ready-to-cook weight[1]														
1975	Mil. lb.	781	676	736	825	831	884	967	942	978	1,067	834	914	10,434
1976	Mil. lb.	857	758	912	897	910	1,077	1,045	1,115	1,125	1,094	1,021	928	11,739
1977	Mil. lb.	849	780	938	895	988	1,095	988	1,179	1,115				
Total red meat, carcass weight[2]														
1975	Mil. lb.	3,315	2,880	2,959	3,089	2,873	2,832	2,842	2,860	3,088	3,339	2,978	3,159	36,213
1976	Mil. lb.	3,267	2,907	3,515	3,109	2,928	3,150	3,048	3,350	3,467	3,497	3,453	3,367	39,058
1977	Mil. lb.	3,273	3,084	3,549	3,200	3,122	3,298	2,925	3,405	3,354	3,344			
Table 25.–Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Young														
1975	Mil. lb.	646.2	570.2	616.6	688.3	690.1	683.1	714.2	680.5	684.9	739.8	560.7	691.4	7,966
1976	Mil. lb.	712.3	632.3	771.9	742.5	745.4	825.9	766.0	805.2	800.3	769.5	699.2	716.8	8,987
1977	Mil. lb.	713.8	659.2	783.2	744.9	809.9	843.7	745.5	870.4	808.2				
Mature														
1975	Mil. lb.	47.8	39.1	43.6	44.6	37.0	39.0	34.5	34.0	38.7	42.2	31.7	40.5	473
1976	Mil. lb.	44.1	42.2	46.4	48.9	34.4	41.1	38.6	38.0	42.6	39.6	34.9	40.4	491
1977	Mil. lb.	43.6	42.6	51.5	48.6	44.3	48.3	30.4	37.5	42.6				

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights—Continued														
Total														
1975	Mil. lb.	694.0	609.4	660.2	732.9	727.0	722.1	748.7	714.6	723.5	782.0	592.4	732.0	8,439
1976	Mil. lb.	756.4	674.4	818.3	791.4	779.8	867.0	804.7	843.2	842.9	809.1	734.1	757.2	9,479
1977	Mil. lb.	757.4	701.8	834.7	793.5	854.1	892.0	775.9	907.9	850.9				
Table 26.—Turkey certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Fryer-roasters														
1975	Mil. lb.	7.0	6.9	7.5	7.7	6.9	7.2	8.3	7.0	6.8	8.8	8.2	7.0	89
1976	Mil. lb.	6.5	6.4	8.1	6.9	7.5	9.2	9.5	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.2	5.0	92
1977	Mil. lb.	3.2	5.8	7.8	5.1	5.8	7.6	6.5	6.3	5.8				
Young turkeys														
1975	Mil. lb.	56.8	39.9	45.8	60.5	73.6	128.3	181.3	194.7	221.1	248.3	211.9	150.1	1,612
1976	Mil. lb.	68.9	54.5	58.8	72.1	98.3	170.0	200.3	233.1	243.3	248.4	252.8	141.2	1,842
1977	Mil. lb.	66.1	51.9	71.0	73.1	103.3	165.4	180.2	236.7	231.2				
Old turkeys														
1975	Mil. lb.	1.1	.3	1.2	.6	1.5	2.9	3.7	1.6	1.0	.4	.1	.3	15
1976	Mil. lb.	.8	.8	1.8	.9	.7	3.1	4.1	2.4	1.3	.3	.4	.3	17
1977	Mil. lb.	1.3	1.1	1.4	.7	.9	3.4	2.9	1.3	1.2				
Total turkeys														
1975	Mil. lb.	64.9	47.1	54.4	68.7	81.9	138.4	193.2	203.3	229.0	257.5	220.2	157.5	1,716
1976	Mil. lb.	76.3	61.7	68.6	79.9	106.5	182.2	213.9	243.8	252.8	256.6	261.5	146.4	1,950
1977	Mil. lb.	70.5	58.7	80.3	78.9	110.0	176.5	189.6	244.4	238.2				
Table 27.—Ducks, and total poultry certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Ducks														
1975	Mil. lb.	2.5	2.2	2.8	4.7	5.0	5.8	5.3	4.6	4.8	4.7	3.7	3.9	50
1976	Mil. lb.	3.2	2.7	3.4	4.7	5.2	6.4	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.3	4.9	4.2	58
1977	Mil. lb.	3.4	3.2	3.9	4.5	5.4	6.5	5.6	6.4	6.0				
Total poultry														
1975	Mil. lb.	761.6	658.7	717.6	806.5	814.1	866.5	947.5	922.7	957.5	1,045.6	817.7	893.5	10,210
1976	Mil. lb.	836.0	739.0	890.4	876.1	891.7	1,055.8	1,024.7	1,093.2	1,101.9	1,072.5	1,001.9	906.2	11,491
1977	Mil. lb.	831.5	763.9	918.9	877.1	969.7	1,075.2	971.4	1,159.1	1,095.4				
Table 28.—Chicken and turkey inspected for further processing in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Chicken														
Young														
1975	Mil. lb.	39.6	35.6	38.4	41.9	40.9	47.3	48.2	48.0	50.3	55.3	45.4	49.7	541
1976	Mil. lb.	51.8	47.5	55.6	53.6	52.2	61.0	54.4	56.3	54.0	54.3	50.0	52.8	643
1977	Mil. lb.	50.5	52.9	66.0	58.3	53.1	67.8	59.8	65.8	60.3				
Mature														
1975	Mil. lb.	31.2	24.4	25.6	29.1	21.8	28.3	25.5	27.7	31.9	38.3	34.1	38.2	356
1976	Mil. lb.	43.2	39.6	44.7	40.0	36.8	32.3	26.9	35.5	32.3	33.8	34.0	36.8	436
1977	Mil. lb.	37.8	38.5	43.1	39.5	35.9	33.1	22.4	35.7	32.4				
Total														
1975	Mil. lb.	70.8	60.0	64.0	71.0	62.7	75.6	73.8	75.7	82.2	93.7	79.6	87.9	897
1976	Mil. lb.	95.0	87.1	100.3	93.6	89.0	93.3	81.3	91.8	86.3	88.1	84.0	89.6	1,079
1977	Mil. lb.	88.2	91.4	109.1	97.8	89.0	100.9	82.2	101.5	92.7				
Turkey														
1975	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	44.7	49.1	45.3	69.1	99.1	107.4	111.8	129.1	98.9	67.2	908
1976	Mil. lb.	47.9	44.4	54.5	49.1	69.0	97.9	113.6	124.9	132.1	133.9	119.0	67.5	1,054
1977	Mil. lb.	50.2	50.8	69.2	60.6	74.9	100.6	110.8	134.1	141.3				
Table 32.—Per capita consumption of shell eggs														
Shell equivalent:														
1975	no.	22.0	19.4	21.9	20.4	20.6	19.2	20.1	20.6	19.9	20.9	20.9	21.7	248
1976	do.	21.8	19.7	20.6	19.8	20.6	19.3	20.2	20.2	19.5	20.4	19.6	20.9	243
1977	do.	20.9	18.1	20.1	19.0	19.2	18.0	19.0	19.0	18.9				
Tables 34-41.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per dozen for shell eggs														
United States, received by farmers[3]														
1975	Cents	57.2	54.1	54.1	47.4	47.1	45.6	46.5	50.8	55.8	52.9	58.2	63.4	52.8
1976	do.	61.2	58.5	53.5	52.7	54.7	53.3	55.1	60.0	61.4	60.3	65.5	69.5	58.8
1977	do.	65.1	66.2	58.8	55.3	49.1	46.8	50.7	51.5	52.6	47.3			
Grade A large eggs in retail stores[4, 5]														
1975	do.	84.2	83.9	74.9	77.2	70.6	66.9	70.6	73.7	79.9	77.7	78.1	86.1	77.0
1976	do.	89.1	90.1	78.2	77.6	75.2	74.4	80.0	85.7	89.0	87.6	87.3	94.6	84.1
1977	do.	98.6	103.4	89.0	81.2	75.4	68.7	80.9	82.0	81.7	76.1			

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 34-41.—Monthly average price per dozen shell eggs—Continued														
Iowa, received by farmers														
Buyer quality and volume incentive														
Large														
1975	Cents	50.25	43.34	45.26	36.09	36.86	36.90	39.27	44.64	49.43	45.12	51.05	58.52	44.73
1976	do.	56.21	50.26	44.91	44.20	45.80	45.64	50.31	56.50	57.40	55.68	60.98	66.50	52.87
1977	do.	62.45	59.42	51.13	46.24	39.33	39.61	45.83	45.00	45.14	38.64			
Medium														
1975	do.	44.32	37.21	37.38	30.48	26.26	25.90	27.89	34.02	39.31	38.55	42.95	53.25	36.46
1976	do.	48.93	43.63	34.78	35.43	39.42	37.52	40.57	45.84	47.71	46.53	55.57	66.52	44.70
1977	do.	56.67	54.82	41.98	37.43	30.12	28.05	29.62	32.61	34.10	31.32			
Price to volume buyers*														
14 Metro areas:														
Large														
1975	do.	67.82	62.49	64.24	55.78	55.37	54.88	56.76	62.28	66.85	62.37	69.08	75.81	62.81
1976	do.	73.30	67.42	62.40	62.05	63.27	62.30	67.38	72.22	63.52	71.44	76.66	82.52	69.54
1977	do.	78.98	76.61	67.99	63.28	56.09	57.52	63.07	62.67	62.49	56.33			
Los Angeles, Grade AA:														
Large														
1975	do.	68.32	68.71	68.55	58.74	60.26	58.50	55.73	61.64	66.78	63.74	70.00	75.48	64.70
1976	do.	75.33	69.00	66.96	66.36	65.75	66.04	69.86	75.00	74.57	68.97	73.67	78.42	70.83
1977	do.	78.29	76.47	70.13	67.29	61.05	64.00	66.50	69.00	68.30	60.66			
Medium														
1975	do.	67.32	67.71	65.67	53.85	54.55	50.50	49.27	52.74	59.78	60.93	69.00	74.48	60.48
1976	do.	74.33	66.56	63.96	62.91	62.50	60.86	59.71	66.23	69.57	63.39	70.19	76.15	66.36
1977	do.	76.81	73.84	65.96	62.29	55.00	56.00	54.25	54.22	54.80	53.58			
New York, wholesale prices, white														
Large, 75 percent A														
1975	do.	62.18	55.44	59.24	50.17	49.26	50.55	52.59	58.21	61.56	56.65	65.67	71.85	57.78
1976	do.	68.44	60.50	56.78	55.44	58.38	58.83	63.06	68.56	69.19	67.50	75.19	78.17	65.00
1977	do.	75.06	69.94	63.12	56.92	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Medium														
1975	do.	57.75	50.58	53.24	46.18	40.76	41.43	42.58	48.28	53.07	53.61	59.42	70.50	51.45
1976	do.	64.22	57.94	49.56	49.50	53.88	50.94	55.39	60.83	60.33	61.87	71.94	74.94	59.28
1977	do.	71.19	66.44	TF	49.58	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Midwest, paid delivered†														
Large														
1975	do.	66.20	59.62	61.38	53.25	53.20	52.75	55.20	60.50	65.25	60.90	67.75	74.50	60.88
1976	do.	72.75	66.25	60.75	59.85	62.31	61.12	65.85	71.44	72.12	70.20	76.00	81.60	68.35
1977	do.	78.60	75.38	67.00	62.60	55.12	54.62	61.00	60.88	61.70	55.62			
Medium														
1975	do.	62.00	54.88	55.50	49.50	45.20	44.25	45.60	50.50	56.38	56.60	61.00	72.50	54.49
1976	do.	68.30	62.62	53.00	52.60	56.88	53.94	56.65	62.25	63.75	63.20	72.50	77.60	61.94
1977	do.	74.00	71.38	58.44	54.55	45.75	44.00	47.45	50.25	51.25	48.62			

Table 42.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per pound for frozen egg products

New York and Philadelphia														
Frozen egg														
Whole egg, light colored														
1975	Cents	36.06	33.81	32.48	32.72	37.94	37.59	38.38	39.80	42.31	41.39	42.16	41.79	38.04
1976	do.	41.31	42.75	42.56	40.52	41.84	42.64	43.83	47.86	52.50	52.06	54.02	52.50	46.20
1977	do.	50.47	48.28	45.46	41.61	41.11	39.53	38.56	37.19	37.08				
White														
1975	do.	17.57	16.97	16.41	16.38	18.75	20.44	21.38	22.27	23.11	22.69	22.94	22.92	20.15
1976	do.	22.31	22.59	22.58	21.92	23.88	25.56	26.97	28.75	31.75	32.37	34.28	34.00	27.25
1977	do.	32.31	32.16	31.03	30.19	30.69	29.75	28.76	27.17	26.47				
Yolks, light colored, sugared,														
43 percent solids														
1975	do.	69.39	64.69	60.69	57.69	60.58	61.75	67.69	64.72	67.69	67.42	67.94	68.11	64.45
1976	do.	67.42	67.78	67.50	65.46	66.07	67.40	69.28	76.22	83.34	83.43	84.16	82.02	73.34
1977	do.	79.20	76.62	71.78	65.50	64.11	63.00	63.19	62.50	63.03				

Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound

Liveweight														
United States, at farm														
1975	do.	23.8	24.3	23.5	23.2	24.6	27.6	29.7	29.1	29.6	28.5	27.0	23.9	26.2
1976	do.	24.2	25.2	24.4	23.5	24.6	24.3	25.4	23.8	22.8	20.6	19.4	19.3	23.1
1977	do.	21.5	24.0	24.3	24.3	24.3	24.7	26.2	23.9	24.0	23.1			

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound—Continued														
Broilers, weighted average, delivered to major areas[6]														
9-City average[5]														
1975	Cents	41.64	41.37	40.72	40.06	42.88	48.05	51.20	49.96	49.66	47.73	45.82	41.79	45.07
1976	do.	41.89	42.68	41.93	41.00	42.07	42.11	43.16	41.61	39.72	36.45	34.92	35.00	40.21
1977	do.	38.78	42.13	41.92	41.44	42.17	43.34	44.28	42.03	40.90	39.24			
Chicago														
1975	do.	42.8	40.9	40.2	39.8	42.3	46.9	50.9	49.6	49.6	47.2	45.6	41.7	44.8
1976	do.	41.7	42.6	41.6	40.9	42.0	41.7	43.3	41.4	39.8	36.2	34.9	35.0	40.1
1977	do.	38.7	41.4	42.0	41.1	41.8	42.7	43.8	41.9	40.6	38.8			
New York														
1975	do.	41.6	41.3	40.3	39.7	42.0	47.2	51.4	49.6	49.7	47.6	45.2	40.6	44.7
1976	do.	41.6	41.9	41.3	40.8	41.8	41.6	42.8	41.4	39.6	36.0	34.2	34.2	39.8
1977	do.	38.0	40.7	41.1	41.0	41.8	43.7	43.8	41.6	40.3	38.8			
Los Angeles														
1975	do.	43.4	42.5	42.0	42.0	44.2	48.0	52.2	51.0	50.9	48.9	47.2	43.3	46.3
1976	do.	43.4	44.4	43.7	42.2	43.0	42.6	44.4	43.0	40.9	38.0	36.6	36.9	41.6
1977	do.	40.7	42.9	43.3	42.5	43.9	43.8	45.7	43.6	42.8	41.4			
Frying chicken in retail stores[4]														
1975	do.	59.3	58.6	58.8	57.6	57.9	61.5	68.3	68.6	69.9	66.9	66.5	65.5	63.3
1976	do.	63.6	61.4	60.8	60.7	59.4	62.0	62.6	60.7	59.4	56.7	54.4	54.3	59.7
1977	do.	54.7	58.8	61.3	61.2	60.7	60.5	62.1	62.1	61.5	60.4			
Chicken breasts, in retail stores[4]														
1975	do.	102.3	103.4	102.9	101.3	103.0	107.2	116.7	117.1	118.0	116.1	115.8	115.3	109.9
1976	do.	112.3	111.8	109.3	109.6	110.0	111.8	113.7	111.9	110.4	107.0	106.0	106.5	101.6
1977	do.	105.9	108.1	110.5	113.0	111.3	112.7	116.0	113.9	114.2	113.5			
Tables 50-54.—Average turkey prices per pound														
Liveweight[3]														
U.S., at farm														
1975	Cents	32.4	31.2	30.7	29.4	31.1	32.7	34.4	35.7	36.3	36.4	36.7	36.2	33.6
1976	do.	33.4	32.1	32.9	31.8	32.1	31.2	31.1	31.1	30.7	30.7	31.1	33.5	31.8
1977	do.	32.4	32.5	34.2	33.6	33.2	33.9	33.7	33.7	34.3	36.5			
Turkeys in retail stores[4]														
1975	do.	69.2	71.6	70.4	69.0	69.1	70.9	71.4	74.5	75.5	76.7	77.4	75.8	72.6
1976	do.	76.6	75.0	73.5	74.4	74.1	74.7	73.9	74.4	72.9	72.8	71.9	70.4	73.7
1977	do.	69.7	70.6	71.4	68.2	72.2	72.3	72.7	73.5	74.0	75.7			
Wholesale frozen (average f.o.b. or equivalent)														
New York:														
Young hens, 8-16 pounds														
1975	do.	51.6	46.9	47.3	48.3	51.6	53.4	56.0	58.0	57.2	58.1	57.3	52.6	53.2
1976	do.	47.1	49.1	51.7	48.2	48.9	47.6	49.5	48.1	48.0	47.8	48.4	50.6	48.7
1977	do.	48.7	49.7	52.3	53.6	50.8	50.0	50.8	53.4	55.0	57.4			
Young toms, 14-20 pounds														
1975	do.	49.1	46.0	43.7	43.3	46.9	49.6	52.7	56.2	57.0	57.2	56.7	54.4	51.8
1976	do.	46.8	46.1	49.8	49.4	50.8	47.8	48.5	47.9	46.8	46.9	49.6	54.0	48.7
1977	do.	50.9	51.2	52.1	53.0	51.4	50.6	49.8	52.4	55.6	58.8			
Paid at seller's dock, frozen														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1975	do.	57.5	50.2	57.2	52.3	55.3	57.0	59.3	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	57.9	57.0
1976	do.	51.8	51.8	55.3	52.8	52.9	51.4	52.2	52.0	51.6	51.2	51.7	54.8	52.4
1977	do.	51.9	52.6	55.4	56.6	54.4	53.9	53.9	53.4	57.5	60.3			
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1975	do.	59.0	56.7	55.0	52.0	52.6	56.5	59.5	61.8	64.3	66.8	69.9	70.0	60.3
1976	do.	69.0	69.0	69.9	70.0	70.6	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	72.8	73.0	70.8
1977	do.	72.5	72.2	68.8	68.8	69.0	70.1	72.1	70.1	73.6	74.6			
Chicago														
Hens, 12-14 pounds														
1975	do.	58.7	52.2	50.5	50.6	53.3	54.7	57.1	58.8	58.5	59.3	60.5	57.0	55.9
1976	do.	51.2	50.0	53.5	51.1	50.8	50.2	51.0	50.4	49.7	48.6	50.4	52.9	50.9
1977	do.	50.6	50.6	53.7	55.2	53.4	52.1	52.5	55.2	56.8	60.0			
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1975	do.	57.0	56.7	55.2	55.0	55.0	56.0	57.0	60.3	62.1	65.1	67.2	68.0	59.6
1976	do.	68.0	68.0	67.8	68.4	69.4	70.0	70.0	69.6	69.6	70.0	70.2	70.5	69.3
1977	do.	70.5	68.3	67.0	66.9	67.7	69.2	70.1	71.8	72.5	72.5			
Tables 57-60.—Prices paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios														
All poults each														
1975	Cents	68.7	69.5	70.1	70.0	70.2	71.0	73.9	70.6	70.4	68.6	67.6	68.8	69.9
1976	do.	68.9	69.6	70.5	70.5	70.5	70.2	71.3	69.8	68.5	67.7	66.4	67.1	69.3
1977	do.	67.9	70.6	72.9	73.1	74.0	74.9	75.0	75.0	72.0	71.0			

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 57-60.—Price paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios—Continued														
Feed per ton														
Laying feed														
1975	Dol.	160	151	143	146	145	144	145	150	149	148	143	143	147
1976	do.	143	143	144	144	146	156	162	157	159	154	151	153	151
1977	do.	156	161	161	163	166	162	153	143	138	135			
Broiler grower feed														
1975	do.	176	167	161	164	161	162	161	163	164	164	158	160	163
1976	do.	158	160	160	159	161	172	181	177	179	170	169	174	168
1977	do.	174	178	179	183	187	184	175	164	154	153			
Turkey grower feed														
1975	do.	178	168	161	165	164	165	163	168	170	170	164	165	167
1976	do.	165	165	165	162	165	178	187	181	181	176	177	179	174
1977	do.	182	186	188	195	200	196	188	176	172	168			
Corn, Chicago No. 2 yellow (per bushel)														
1975	Cents	309	300	296	304	288	291	286	317	301	276	264	259	291
1976	do.	262	270	268	268	284	296	296	287	277	249	233	244	270
1977	do.	253	254	252	250	241	227	205	178	180	184			
Soybean meal, 49-50 percent, Decatur (per ton, bulk)														
1975	Dol.	138	127	126	132	129	140	134	144	144	136	127	132	134
1976	do.	136	139	136	136	162	200	208	187	192	182	193	213	174
1977	do.	224	230	247	299	284	247	183	161	162	151			
Product-feed price ratios														
Broiler[10]														
1975	Lbs.	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.2
1976	do.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.8
1977	do.	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.0			
Turkey[11]														
1975	do.	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.2
1976	do.	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.7
1977	do.	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.3			
Egg[12]														
1975	do.	7.2	7.2	7.6	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.8	7.5	7.1	8.1	9.0	7.2
1976	do.	8.6	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.5	6.8	6.8	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.7	9.1	7.9
1977	do.	8.3	8.2	7.3	6.8	5.9	5.8	6.6	7.2	7.6	7.0			
Tables 61-62.—Chicks hatched by types and pullet chicks placed														
Chicks hatched														
Broiler-type														
1975	Mil.	253.7	239.0	278.1	275.3	285.1	274.7	270.8	268.3	247.6	249.9	254.6	271.9	3,169.1
1976	Mil.	278.9	268.2	309.5	310.6	321.1	309.2	303.9	295.9	271.9	268.2	267.9	283.0	3,488.3
1977	Mil.	293.3	272.0	322.9	324.4	336.9	320.3	310.4	294.2	279.9	290.7			
Egg-type														
1975	Mil.	34.8	36.6	45.4	47.4	48.0	40.9	38.1	34.9	33.9	34.8	28.4	30.7	453.8
1976	Mil.	35.8	39.6	50.1	51.5	48.2	42.4	38.6	38.3	37.7	37.0	36.3	36.6	492.2
1977	Mil.	40.2	41.3	51.0	54.8	52.5	44.4	37.4	37.8	37.1	37.0			
Pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks[13]														
Total														
1975	Thou.	2,211	2,134	2,754	2,492	2,874	2,459	2,466	2,645	2,647	2,449	2,306	2,379	29,816
1976	Thou.	2,423	2,556	2,907	3,104	3,164	2,648	2,797	2,836	2,584	2,668	2,434	2,547	32,668
1977	Thou.	2,585	2,419	2,919	3,275	3,025	2,730	2,782	2,618	2,701	3,013			
Cumulation relevant to breeder flock[14]														
1975	Thou.	20,632	20,585	20,490	20,161	19,828	19,093	18,600	18,057	17,666	18,161	18,365	19,079	
1976	Thou.	19,397	19,692	20,035	20,471	20,786	20,338	20,225	19,774	19,871	20,312	20,771	21,288	
1977	Thou.	21,487	21,978	22,435	22,596	22,708	22,235	21,678	21,099	20,870	20,992	21,431	21,872	
1978	Thou.	21,934	22,282	22,353	22,469	23,063								
Table 63.—Poults hatched by breeds														
Poults hatched														
Light breeds														
1975	Thou.	1,202	1,367	1,406	1,657	1,526	1,400	1,524	1,319	747	1,008	1,244	1,518	15,918
1976	Thou.	1,815	1,497	1,996	2,079	1,931	1,930	1,997	1,215	625	955	1,265	1,257	18,562
1977	Thou.	1,203	1,126	1,270	1,372	1,374	1,265	1,380	1,057	362	632			
Total heavy breeds														
1975	Thou.	7,487	10,657	14,719	16,960	17,568	16,140	12,734	7,329	3,590	3,457	4,147	6,370	121,158
1976	Thou.	8,767	12,278	16,758	18,031	18,417	17,679	13,417	6,950	3,634	4,012	4,822	6,376	131,141
1977	Thou.	9,568	11,607	16,821	18,139	19,593	17,660	14,067	7,090	4,152	4,531			
All breeds														
1975	Thou.	8,689	12,024	16,125	18,617	19,094	17,540	14,258	8,648	4,337	4,465	5,391	7,888	137,076
1976	Thou.	10,582	13,775	18,754	20,110	20,348	19,609	15,414	8,165	4,259	4,967	6,087	7,633	149,703
1977	Thou.	10,771	12,733	18,091	19,511	20,967	18,925	15,447	8,147	4,514	5,163			

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 66.—Cold storage holdings of shell and frozen eggs, first of month														
All frozen eggs														
1975	Mil. lb.	54.2	52.1	51.0	46.7	42.8	44.7	47.8	52.1	51.9	51.0	46.6	42.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	36.3	31.7	28.7	29.4	29.7	28.9	30.1	31.6	31.0	28.7	28.9	25.5	
1977	Mil. lb.	26.1	26.9	24.9	24.7	25.4	28.1	31.6	35.1	34.8	33.8	33.2		
Shell eggs														
1975	1,000 cs.	36	32	48	32	26	68	82	84	80	72	55	40	
1976	1,000 cs.	22	14	21	26	26	22	23	34	45	50	32	25	
1977	1,000 cs.	28	29	44	42	42	33	40	38	47	49	51		
Shell equivalent of all eggs														
1975	1,000 cs.	1,408	1,350	1,340	1,214	1,110	1,200	1,291	1,402	1,393	1,364	1,235	1,108	
1976	1,000 cs.	940	818	747	769	778	754	786	835	830	776	764	671	
1977	1,000 cs.	689	710	675	666	686	744	839	927	929	905	892		
Tables 68-69.—Cold storage holdings of poultry, first of the month														
Total frozen														
Turkey														
1975	Mil. lb.	275.0	267.1	239.9	207.3	180.2	162.7	193.2	248.6	328.3	409.8	472.4	286.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	195.2	186.8	160.7	140.7	114.5	120.8	177.3	261.9	370.3	459.7	512.3	298.8	
1977	Mil. lb.	203.4	190.2	167.8	142.3	130.3	137.9	201.2	251.6	327.6	408.4	446.3		
Chicken														
Hens														
1975	Mil. lb.	54.0	55.7	55.6	56.6	59.1	57.1	56.9	54.3	52.9	49.1	44.7	41.6	
1976	Mil. lb.	39.2	34.7	31.4	29.4	32.3	30.1	34.2	36.8	38.6	37.9	40.5	40.3	
1977	Mil. lb.	42.1	40.5	38.8	35.7	38.2	40.0	38.8	41.4	39.2	38.6	33.3		
Broilers, fryers and roasters														
1975	Mil. lb.	37.2	31.5	32.9	28.0	27.8	24.1	22.6	21.7	22.5	22.7	21.9	21.5	
1976	Mil. lb.	22.3	20.2	19.7	19.4	19.1	17.4	20.0	25.6	27.4	24.3	24.3	29.1	
1977	Mil. lb.	32.9	27.4	24.6	26.6	24.8	27.9	34.1	33.1	30.5	31.7	33.2		
Tables 70-71.—Exports of fresh or frozen poultry														
Broilers														
1975	Thou. lb.	10,268	9,841	9,903	11,620	12,595	11,858	10,851	11,931	10,615	13,046	11,483	13,720	137,731
1976	Thou. lb.	16,263	12,881	16,254	17,226	23,950	24,940	20,438	39,409	26,048	26,555	28,906	34,537	287,408
1977	Thou. lb.	27,105	24,963	18,891	25,826	25,795	20,536	37,790	27,530	26,788				
Turkeys														
1975	Thou. lb.	1,384	2,551	2,979	2,952	2,851	3,807	4,389	4,023	5,293	7,139	5,368	4,507	47,244
1976	Thou. lb.	5,135	5,993	7,719	3,958	3,864	6,267	4,050	4,513	4,923	6,327	6,268	6,152	65,170
1977	Thou. lb.	2,947	3,303	2,138	2,435	3,909	5,033	5,210	6,875	8,133				
Tables 72-75.—USDA contracts to purchase chicken, and turkey														
Young chickens, ready-to-cook wt.														
1975	Mil. lb.	3.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	7.3	6.8	7.0	5.2	30.0
1976	Mil. lb.	7.6	7.3	8.4	---	---	---	---	4.5	5.2	3.3	6.2	4.6	47.1
1977	Mil. lb.	4.9	6.4	4.4	---	---	---	---	6.5	6.3	8.4			
Canned boned chicken														
1975	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	2.3	---	---	1.3	1.9	2.3	7.3	15.1
1976	Mil. lb.	5.0	2.9	2.4	---	---	---	---	1.3	.4	4.1	2.1	1.8	20.0
1977	Mil. lb.	3.5	3.0	7.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Canned boney turkey														
1975	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1976	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1.7	.5	.7	---	3.0
1977	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		
Turkey, ready-to-cook wt.														
1975	Mil. lb.	2.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.1	6.9	10.4	---	---	21.6
1976	Mil. lb.	10.1	11.8	---	---	---	---	---	9.1	18.2	18.3	6.4	1.6	75.5
1977	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	5.8	16.6	14.3	3.9			

[1] Chicken and turkey meat, excludes slaughter on farms. [2] Excludes farm slaughter, lard and rendered pork fat. [3] Price reported as a price at mid-month. [4] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices are collected on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the week that includes the first Tuesday of the month. [5] Includes price for Grade AA eggs in Anchorage, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle, and Grade AA and ungraded eggs in some small cities. [6] Weighted average price to volume buyers for Consumer Grade A white eggs in cartons delivered to store door. [7] Prices paid by first receivers for cartoned Grade A eggs delivered FOB Midwestern cities. Prior to January 1974, reported as average price paid delivered to Chicago, loose, white, minimum 80 percent A. [8] Trucklot sales of U.S. Grade A and plant grade ready-to-cook, ice-packed broiler-fryers. [9] Computed by weighting the city averages by their metropolitan area populations. The 9 cities are: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco. [10] Pounds of broiler grower equal in value to 1 lb. of broiler liveweight. [11] Pounds of turkey grower equal in value to 1 lb. of turkey liveweight. [12] Pounds of laying feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs. [13] Placements reported by leading breeders. [14] Sum of domestic placements 7-14 months previous.

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